

"Beyond" Quantitative Research

Assorted Research Orientations in
Kinesiology
KIN 250

Types of Research

- Not just Quantitative *or* Qualitative
- Many aspects of physical activity are investigated through a variety of differing research methods.
- Different techniques for different types of research.
- No consensus on subject or method!
- An overview of some research types and an example.

Different Types of Research

- Historical
- Philosophical
- Cultural Criticism
- Media Analysis
- Narrative Analysis
- Emerging types of research (and methods) in the area of physical activity.

Historical Research

- “Systematic examination and explanation of change, or the lack of it, in human affairs” (p. 203)
- Can cover almost any topic in human movement
- “History of Sport” is an emerging field but not without growing pains...or paradigm debates.
- Modernization v. Agency paradigm

Historical Research Cont.

- Topics? The sky is the limit! Many topics can be approached from a multitude of historical perspectives...Baseball, for example.
- Sources? Primary and Secondary.
 - Secondary (books, articles, and other media)
 - Direct – anthologies, monographs, journal articles
 - Ancillary – From other scholarly disciplines

Historical Research Cont.

- Primary- archival original library materials, special collections, newspapers, private collections.
 - Historical criticism
 - External - authenticity of source
 - Internal – establish credibility of source
- Reading the Evidence
 - Must interpret the context of the information. Network of facts and meanings of some historical evidence.
 - Must make sense of the event or activity under investigation. No one “right” answer
 - Historian creates meaning based on any number of factors.

Historical Research: Issues

- “Pose questions that both expand our understanding of the historical function of sport in society and simultaneously engage the concerns of contemporary audiences and publics” (Pope 1998, p. vii).
- Must fight for institutional approval! Sport History has been/is marginalized. Borrows from sociology and cultural studies.
- Must make sport history meaningful!

Philosophical Research in Physical Activity

- Philosophical Research?
- Non-empirical analysis still has value!
- Philosophical debate surrounding real-world issues.
- Examines reality through reflective procedures
- Not what they look at but how
- Philosophers look at ideas, ideals, meanings, and logical relationships.

Philosophical Research in Physical Activity

- Empirical investigation alone is incomplete.
- Branches of Reflective Inquiry:
 - Metaphysics – nature of things
 - Axiology – value of things
 - Epistemology – How do we come to know things
 - Deconstructionism – Interrogate assumptions
- Locating a research problem
 - Limit scope. Define terms. Make disclaimers. What you can and cannot do
- Ethics as an example. Should athletes be allowed to take performance enhancing drugs?

Philosophical Research in Physical Activity

- **Analyzing a Research Problem**
 - Inductive reasoning – From the general to the specific. Use reason to move to the abstract
 - Deductive reasoning – Start with general claims and move to specific claims
 - Descriptive reasoning – Based on lived experience
 - Speculative reasoning – Postulate based on experience. "Cooperation is the most valuable part of competition"
 - Critical reasoning – Debunk traditional notions of philosophy.

Other types of Research...

- **Media Analysis**
- **Narrative Analysis**
- **Cultural Criticism**
- **Cultural Studies/Praxis/Action Research**
- **An example...**

"History", Culture, Myth and Media:
The 1919 Chicago Black Sox and the Construction of American Dreams
