**Applied Research**
Applied research refers to the use of social science inquiry methods to solve concrete and practical problems. Where basic research focuses on problems that are more abstract, applied research focuses on applying these abstract ideas to specific situations. Both applied and basic research can use any of the social science research methods, such as the survey, experimental, and qualitative methods.

Definition adapted from Sage Research Methods -

**Archive**
A historical record or document that has been preserved, or the place in which such documents are recorded or preserved. Archives can be open to the public, or private. Archives created from government records are generally only released to the public after thirty years has lapsed in order to protect national security or foreign relations. The provenance of the source material is particularly important to archives in a way that differs from other kinds of collections.

Definition adapted from OED Online –

**Archival Research**
Archival research involves locating, evaluating, interpreting and analysing sources found in archives. Original source materials may be consulted and analysed for purposes other than those for which they were originally collected—to ask new questions of old data, provide comparisons over time or between geographic areas, to verify or challenge existing findings, or draw together evidence from disparate sources to provide a bigger picture.

Definition adapted from Sage Research Methods -

**Dissemination**
Dissemination is the process of distributing something. In academic terms this often refers to information, ideas, opinions and theories being created and shared with the broader community. These might include traditional outputs such as a peer-reviewed publications such as a journal article, a book, a book chapter, a public lecture or a conference paper. They may also refer to “non-traditional outputs” such as the curation of an exhibition, or an artistic creation that is exhibited. The important component of dissemination is the sharing of information with the broader community.

Adapted from Sage Research Methods and OED Online -
Double-Blind Peer-Review
Some conferences, and many journals, select submissions on the basis of a peer-review process (that is other experts in an area review the submitted piece of work before it is accepted into the conference or the journal/book for publication). The reviewers can opt to accept the paper without revisions, accept the paper with minor or major revisions, or reject the paper outright. In each case, their reasons must be given and justified to the editorial committee. To ensure that the process occurs without any biases towards the author or their work, the organisation can opt to make this process ‘double-blind’ – that is neither the reviewer nor the author know each other’s identity. To prepare a work for this kind of peer-review process, all identifying information must be removed from the paper, including self-referencing.

Empirical
Empirical refers to knowledge produced by means of direct observation, investigation, or experiment (as distinct from deductive reasoning, abstract theorizing, or speculation).

Definition adapted from OED

Empirical Research
Empirical research, following the tenets of empiricism, is grounded in the belief that direct observation is an appropriate way to measure reality and generate truth about the world. Within the realm of qualitative research, empirical research has been redefined to challenge traditional notions of “truth” and “evidence” while still maintaining the basic premise of acknowledging the materials under study as “empirical.”

Adapted from Sage Research Methods

Ethics, or “Research Ethics”
The field of moral philosophy dealing with the standards by which behaviour should be regulated within research. Undertaking research in an ethical manner involves thinking through all of the potential harm to others (participants or the general public) that conducting the research might provoke, and designing the research in a way that attempts to eradicate or minimise that potential harm. Often ethical approaches to conducting research will require ‘informed consent’ to be obtained by the researcher from their research participants. This means that those participating in a research study have the right to know that they are being researched, to be told fully about the purposes of the research and its potential risks and benefits, and to be informed that they can withdraw their participation at any time. Likewise, information gathered from or about research participants in the course of a study is considered private and should only be revealed to third parties with the explicit consent of the individuals from whom the information was obtained. Some research design further protects participants by ensuring that any data collected is anonymised for analysis, and should be reported in a way that maintains a participant's anonymity. All
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Universities have a Human Research Ethics Committee that regulates and oversees the process of applying for ethics approval, which is required for any research involving humans that is undertaken by students and staff at that university.

Evidence
Evidence is conventionally defined as the knowledge or principles that substantiate claims to wider truth. Addressing the nature of evidence is central to deliberations within philosophy, law, literature, management, science, history, and health care. The determination of what counts as evidence, and how evidence is quantified remains subject to debate in academia.

Data
Data are observations about the world. Data, the plural of datum, can be quantitative or qualitative in nature. The initial view of the concept of data tends to be numerical (quantitative), but qualitative data, for example descriptions of interactions, are also common in social science. In academic terms, data is considered to be produced by the researcher, and not given; that is, researchers choose what to call data, it is not just ‘there’ to be ‘found’.

Findings
Researchers refer to the analysis of their data, collected by the particular methods they chose, as their ‘findings’. From their findings, researchers can draw conclusions, and, hopefully, provide answers to their research questions.

Literature Review
A literature review is the systematic study of all of the relevant existing knowledge about a particular topic. It aims to summarise for a reader the important ideas, thinkers and arguments that have been pursued around a topic, and all of the key findings to date. The purpose of a literature review in a research programme is to understand what knowledge already exists about a topic, and where the gaps in knowledge might be found.

Methods
Ways of doing, according to a defined and regular plan; a mode of procedure.

Methodology
Literally the study or theory of methods. Used in research, it means the theoretical underpinning for understanding the application of particular methods to a particular research question. Often methodologies reflect a belief
system about the world, or how knowledge is generated (e.g. ‘feminist’ methodologies seek to uncover the hidden voices of those whose perspectives have been overlooked by the dominant discourse; ‘marxist’ methodologies seek to expose the way that capital-seeking and market logics dominate social relations; ‘Foucauldian’ methodologies seek to understand the operation of power through the internalization of social norms. Each of these methodologies have in common the challenging of particular normalized visions of how society should operate).

**Mixed methods**
Mixed methods is defined as research in which the inquirer or investigator collects and analyses data, integrates the findings, and draws inferences using more than one type of method (although the term is often used to refer to use of both qualitative and quantitative methods in a single study or a program of study).

Adapted from Sage Research Methods

**Practice-based Research**
Practice-based research (sometimes known as practice-oriented or practice-centred research), involves inquiry into the methods, systems, programs, and policies of professional practice. In a case study context, this means an investigation of a particular example, or case, related to some aspect of practice. The goal of practice-oriented research is to utilize research knowledge to enhance the development and implementation of practice and policy.

Adapted from Sage Research Methods

**Pure Research**
Also known as basic research, pure research consists of empirical studies whose main goal is the understanding of a phenomenon. Pure research is more concerned with developing a body of knowledge regardless of its use or application, whereas applied research is concerned with understanding and solving practical problems. The primary purpose of pure research is the testing of hypotheses generated by a particular theory.

Adapted from Sage Research Methods

**Qualitative**
Accounting for things with words, images etc.; collecting data through describing the world. Data collected can take the form of photography, interview data, site visits, ‘case studies’, participant observation etc.

**Quantitative**
Accounting for things with numbers; collecting data through measuring the world. Data collected often takes the form of graphs, tables, statistics, charts etc.
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Replicability
That which can be done in exactly the same way as before, or produced again to be exactly the same as before. Replicability is important in research as a means of measuring the validity of the findings, especially in the design and outcomes of experiments.

Adapted from Cambridge Dictionary
https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/replicable

Rigour
Rigour can be defined as the set of standards used to evaluate the trustworthiness, quality and value of research. To be rigorous, research should have referred to the widest body of literature potentially relevant to the topic, as well as having canvassed all directly relevant literature pertaining to the chosen topic. Rigorous research also has evaluated all potential sources of data that might be relevant to a topic, and chosen the collection of particular forms of data as being most suited to the research questions at hand. In the analysis of data, rigorous research will have canvassed the widest possible range of explanations for the findings, and to have tested the findings from each data set with the findings from other forms of data. It will have also been up-front in articulating the limitations of the research, and its findings.


Scientific Method / Scientific Tradition
A method of inquiry in which particular speculations are formulated and tested empirically, subject to the principles of scientific reasoning. These scientific principles include systematic observation, measurement and experiment, and the formulation, testing, and modification of hypotheses.

Adapted from Oxford English Dictionary
https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/scientific_method

Validity
The extent to which something that has been studied can be said to have been accurately depicted. The validity of research findings can be tested in a number of ways. In scientific research, this is usually achieved by repeating the experiment in a different laboratory. In qualitative research, it might be achieved through taking generalised findings drawn from evidence gathered in one particular context and testing them by replicating the study in a different context. For an interesting article reporting on recent research around the troubles with replicating research findings over multiple studies, see:
https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/12/13/the-truth-wears-off

Adapted from Sage Research Methods
http://methods.sagepub.com/methods-map-validity