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Using Qualitative Methods in Science and Higher Education Studies

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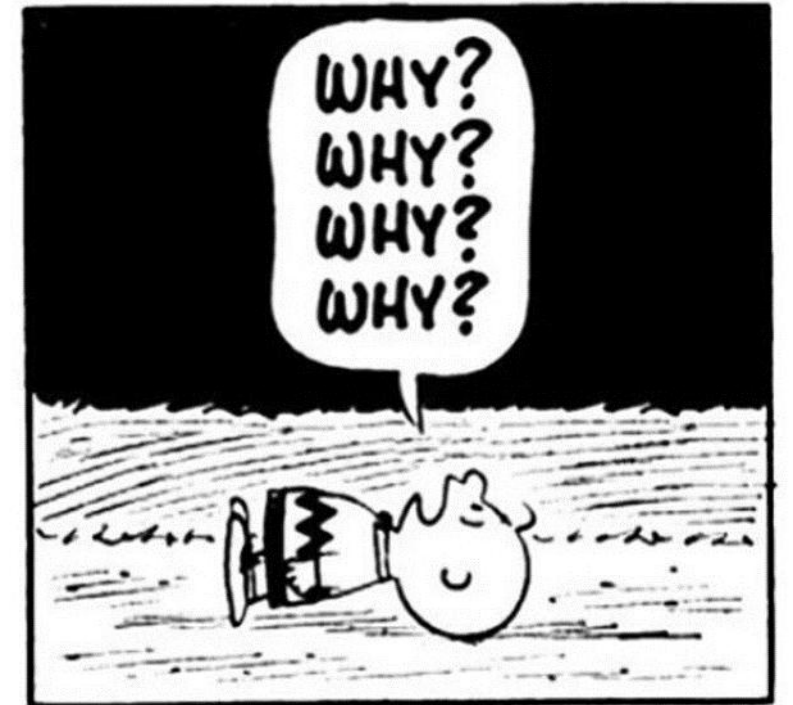
Department of Science and Higher Education Studies

- ✓ Doctoral Schools
- ✓ Universities of Applied Sciences
- ✓ University Governance
- ✓ Well-being of academics
- ✓ Institutional Leadership



Research Experience

- How university boards contribute to their respective HEIs?
- Why there are so few female rectors in Poland?
- What is the role of Universities of Applied Sciences?
- What make academics to leave academia?

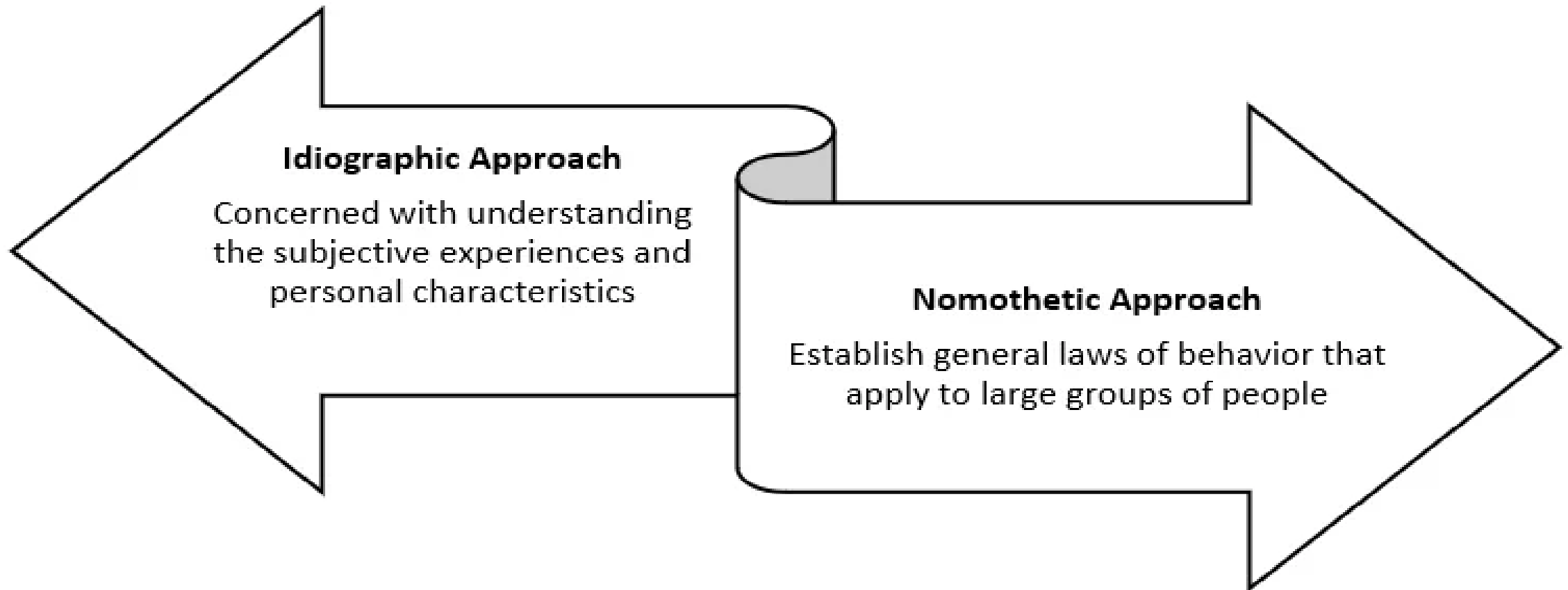


Which method is best to choose for the study?

- ❖ There is not a single perfect research method
- ❖ Method is only a **path to the destination**, it is good to know where we to go.
- ❖ Qualitative methods also require **very strong methodological rigour**
- ❖ What is your research question?



The Goal of Study



Science and HE Studies

- ✓ **Overcome deeply embedded assumptions** that that can easily blind researchers
- ✓ Inductive approach
- ✓ Science is social phenomena and it is performed in various environments
- ✓ Public policy requires **good understanding of the context**, it would applied

The Power of Qualitative Research in Higher Education

While quantitative research focuses on generalizability and statistics, qualitative methods provide 'thick description' and deep insight. These methods are essential for understanding how human systems interact with evolving instructional technologies in their natural, unmanipulated settings.

DEEP CONTEXT AND DISCOVERY



Understanding Natural Systems
Research is conducted in real-world settings without manipulating the environment or variables.

THEORY, MEANING, AND VOICE



Building Grounded Theory
Uses an inductive approach where theories evolve directly from the gathered data.



Exploring New Phenomena
Ideal for studying emerging trends, like online learning, where variables are not yet defined.



Amplifying Participant Voices
Prioritizes the perspectives of students and faculty, giving them a voice in system development.

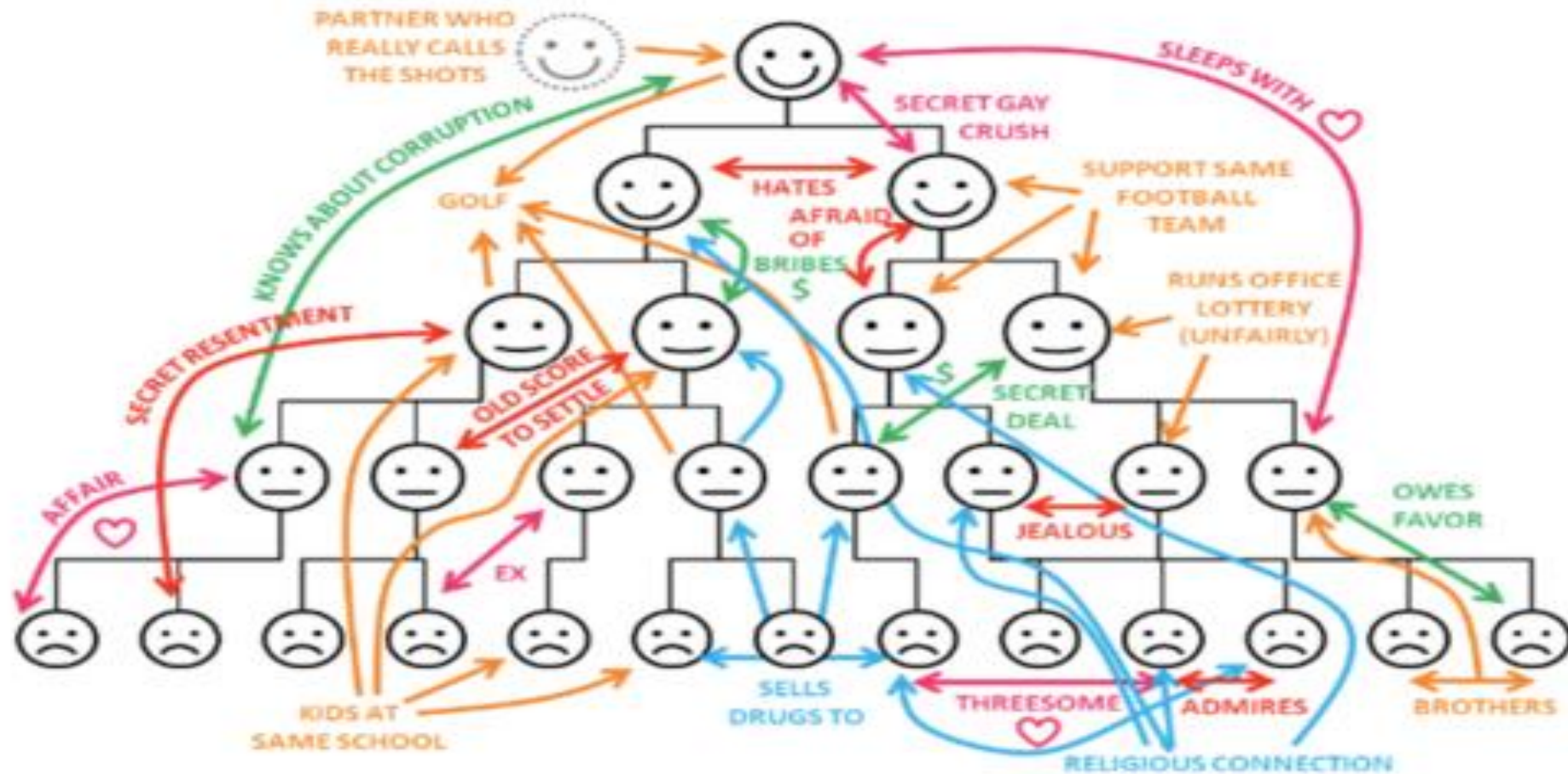


Rich, Descriptive Insight
Provides 'thick descriptions' that capture the complexity of human activities and opinions.



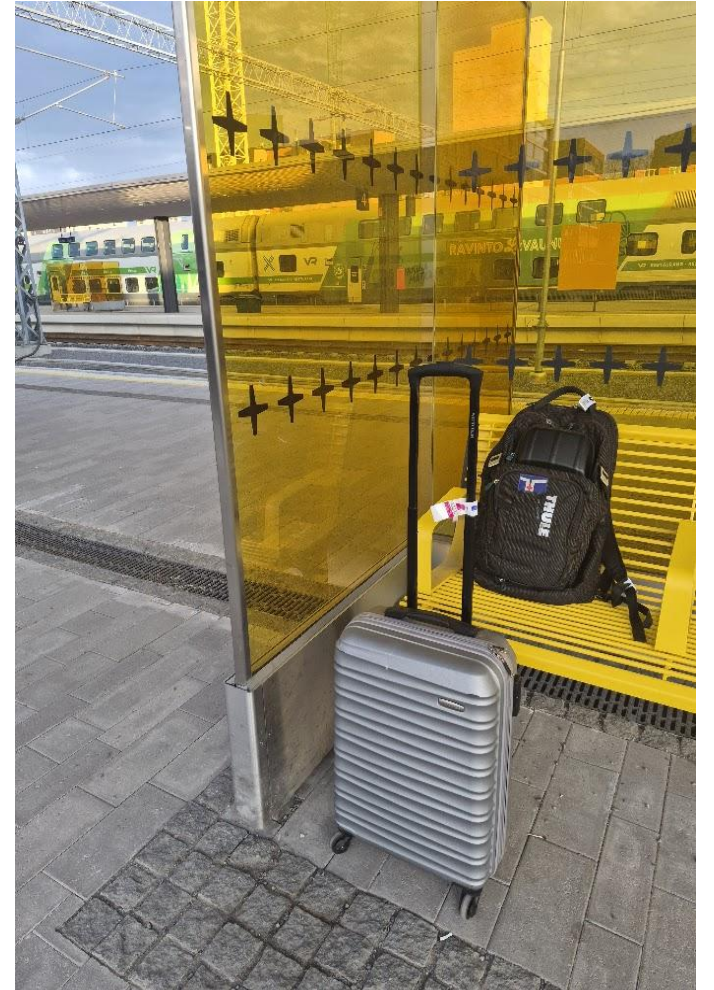
The Human Instrument
Researchers act as sensitive 'instruments' to interpret meanings that participants bring to their experiences.

Making Sense of University Governance?



The Advantage of Qualitative Methods

- ❖ You may leave your office to visit real world
- ❖ Exploring new areas of research
- ❖ Do not require big, expensive global database
- ❖ Going beyond the obvious explanations
- ❖ Understand of the problem under the study



Limits of Reasoning



- ❖ Minefield of international comparative studies
- ❖ Limits of generalization
- ❖ Context sensitive interpretations
- ❖ Context specific conclusions

Thank you very much

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