

The Philosophy (and Practice) of Management Research

Amrita School of Business

Winter Quarter 2016-17, PhD Program



Resource Person: Dr. Deepak Gupta, Professor, Amrita School of Business

Office Hours: MWF 5-6 PM - By prior appointment

Course Text: Neuman, W. L. (2015). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative approaches*. Pearson 7th edition.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) You will learn about the philosophical foundations of management research.
- 2) You will learn about the role of theory and theorizing in the practice of management research
- 3) You will learn how to critically read management research
- 4) You will learn how to prepare scholarly work in written form.
- 5) You will learn how to present scholarly work in oral form.

Course Coverage:

- 1) An introduction to the doctoral journey, salient epistemological and ontological issues in management research, and key influences on its practice.
- 2) An introduction to the philosophy of science, the issues facing social science as a science, and situating management research as part of social science.
- 3) A familiarization with the important role of theory, and theorizing, in the research process.

Course Philosophy:

This course introduces you to the philosophy and practice of management research. It is your first introduction to the doctoral journey and the management research process. The course aims to familiarize you with the core philosophical issues and controversies that underlie the practice of management research as a social science. In that it seeks to sensitize you to the essential choices you will be called upon to make as a researcher. The course also introduces you to the key role of theory and theorizing in management research.

The course will require you to do intensive reading – a necessary skill in the research journey. The articles in your reading list represent some of the more influential academic writing on the respective topics. Through them, you will not only learn about the particular topic but also the art of persuasive scientific communication. Since you may be unfamiliar with the issues being discussed and with academic writing in general, you may find yourself burning the midnight oil on many days. It is necessary, and absolutely worth it ☺

Your learning in this course is going to be a direct function of your openness and effort, especially the time you put in beyond the classroom in the readings, your reflections, and doing the assignments. If you can enter the thinking and the passion of the researchers, you would have made a huge leap forward in your own work. Do not be afraid to take this leap, and do not be afraid to work hard. It will pay off. It always does 😊.

Finally, the entire doctoral quest is a search for truth, your contribution to our understanding of the world we live in. The end of the process is the creation of an original work that advances the understanding and state of knowledge of your chosen field. The wealth you will earn, your own bitcoin, is the work you have done in the process, and the reputation you have earned among your peers and professors. It is extremely important therefore to understand and honor the crucial role of research ethics in this course and your entire research journey:

- a. *Original*: An awareness of consequence of plagiarism and a strict adherence to intellectual property rights in the work you present and submit.
- b. *Honest*: An integrity and truth seeking in question framing , research design, data collection & analysis, and reporting.
- c. *Respectful*: An adherence to the respondents rights in the conduct of the research.

Course Pedagogy:

- 1) In class *student led and instructor facilitated discussion of* key course articles, and themes
- 2) In class student *presentations* on key management theories and the process of theorizing.
- 3) Out of classroom focused *seminars and workshops* on key course themes
- 4) The *flipped classroom* – Out of classroom learning from video lectures
- 5) *Reflective writing* on the research process and research ethics

Course Examination:

- 1) In class presentations and assignments (30%)
- 2) Class participation (20%)
- 3) Reflective Assignments (20%)
- 4) Final Course Examination (30%)

Course Schedule:

#	Theme	Core Readings and Exercises
1	Autobiography	Jerry, C., & Huntgary, J. W. B. (2005), <i>Succeeding with Your Doctorate Doing Research : How Did I Get Here? An Autobiographical Approach</i> .
2-3	The Doctoral Journey	The Revised ASB PhD Rulebook
4-5	An Introduction to Management Research	Chapter 1 of Neuman text Take home assignment on developing a potential idea for research.
6-8	Reading Management Research	The Epistemological, Ontological, and Axiological basis of Management Research: Chapter 4 of Neuman text Workshop on <i>Publishing in International Journals Using Indian Data</i> by Dr Rajiv Krishnan Kozhikode on Publishing in AMJ followed by in-class discussions of: Kozhikode, R. K., & Li, J. (2012). Political pluralism, public policies, and organizational choices: Banking branch expansion in India, 1948–2003. <i>Academy of Management Journal</i> , 55(2), 339-359. Krishnan, R., & Kozhikode, R. K. (2015). Status and corporate illegality: Illegal loan recovery practices of commercial banks in India. <i>Academy of Management Journal</i> , 58(5), 1287-1312. Kozhikode, R. K. (2015). Dormancy as a Strategic Response to Detrimental Public Policy. <i>Organization Science</i> , 27(1), 189-206.
9-12	Situating Management Research as part of Science: The Philosophy and Practice of Science	Feynman, Richard (1998), <i>The Meaning of it All: Thoughts of a Citizen Scientist</i> , p 3-28. Addison – Wesley Okasha Samir (2002), <i>Philosophy of Science: A Very Short Introduction</i> , p 1-17. Oxford University Press, London Popper, Karl (1998), ‘Science: Conjectures and Refutations’ in Curd, Martin and J. A. Cover, <i>Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues</i> . W.W. Norton & Company, New York Kuhn, Thomas S (1998), ‘Logic of Discovery or Psychology of Research’ in Curd, Martin and J. A. Cover, <i>Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues</i> . W.W. Norton & Company, New York

		Platt, John R. (1964), Strong Inference, <i>Science</i> , p 347-353. October 1964, Volume 146, Number 3642.
13-14	The Social Sciences	Rosenberg Alexander (1996), <i>The Philosophy of the Social Sciences</i> , Westview Press Salmon, Merrilee H. (1962), 'Explanation in the Social Sciences' in Kitcher, Philip and Wesley L. Salmon, <i>Scientific Explanation</i> . University of Minnesota Press.
15-16	Management Research as Social Science`	Bryman, Alan and Emma Bell (2007), <i>Business Research Methods</i> , p 4-37. Oxford University Press, London. Birkinshaw, J., Healey, M. P., Suddaby, R. and Weber, K. (2014), Debating the Future of Management Research. <i>Journal of Management Studies</i> , 51: 38–55. doi:10.1111/joms.12061
17-20	Alternative Ways of Seeking Knowledge in Management Research	Hudson, L. A., & Ozanne, J. L. (1988), Alternative Ways of Seeking Knowledge in Consumer Research, <i>Journal of Consumer Research</i> 14(March). Deshpande, R. (1983) 'Paradigms Lost: On Theory and Method in Research in Marketing', <i>Journal of Marketing</i> 47(3): 101–10. Wood M, and Welch C, (2010). Are "qualitative" and "quantitative" useful terms for describing research? <i>Methodological Innovations Online</i> , 5(1), 56-71. DOI: 10.4256/mio.2010.0010
21-24	Theory and Theorizing in Management Research	Chapter 3 of Neuman text. Whetten, D. (1989). What Constitutes a Theoretical Contribution? <i>Academy of Management Review</i> , 14(4), 490–495. Retrieved from http://amr.aom.org/content/14/4/490.short Gigernzer Gerd (1998), Surrogates for Theories, <i>Theory & Psychology</i> , 8 (2), 1998, 195-204 Sutton, Robert I. and Barry M. Staw (1995), What Theory is Not. <i>Administrative Staff Quarterly</i> , 40 (1995): 371-384 Weick, Karl E (1995) What Theory is not, Theorizing Is, <i>Administrative Staff Quarterly</i> , 40 (1995): 385-390 Carlile, Paul R., and Clayton M. Christensen (2005). " The Cycles of Theory Building in Management Research. " Harvard Business School Working Paper, No. 05-057, February 2005 Van Maanen, J., Sørensen, J. B., & Mitchell, T. R. 2007. The

		<p>interplay between theory and method. <i>Academy of Management Review</i>, 32(4): 1145-1154</p> <p>Hambrick, D. C. 2007. The field of management's devotion to theory: Too much of a good thing? <i>Academy of Management Journal</i>, 50(6): 1346-1352.</p>
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