

Title Dialectical Triangulation and Empirical Research

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Abstract

The process of dialectical triangulation refers both to the dialectical nature of the social world, and to the dialectic that occurs when researchers intervene in the world. Specific proposals are made concerning the epistemological pluralism that comes into play when methodological triangulation takes place. All research is emic, ie emerges from insiders' viewpoints rather than from objective or outsiders' viewpoints. Therefore (1) the standpoints reflected by research must inherently be contradictory and diverse rather than unified; and (2) the supposed hermetic seal around statistical data in particular needs to be broken overtly. The chapter advocates 'fallibilism' in empirical social research. She then offers a case study of the research process for triangulated research. Within the chapter Wendy Olsen will provide a brief summary and analysis of an interview with a Management School professor about dialectical triangulation.