

Table 2: Research Paradigms – Major Issues

	Positivism	Postpositivism	Interpretivism	Critical Theory	Indigenous
Ontology (Nature of Reality)	External to human mind	External to human mind	Socially constructed	Material and external to the human mind	Multiple realities; a set of relationships and a process of relationships; ontology is the same as epistemology. ^a
Epistemology (Knowledge and relation of knower to known)	Find universals- Investigator and investigated are independent of each other	Find universals - Independence is not possible but objectivity is the goal	Reflect understanding from interaction of investigator and subject	Uncover local instances of universal power relationships and empower the oppressed	Egalitarian and inclusive. ^b Knowledge is not in things, but rather relationships (interpersonal, intrapersonal, environmental, and spiritual). ^c Culture, worldview, language, histories, spiritualities, and place in the cosmos. ^d
Acceptable Methods & data	Scientific method. Objective data. Quantitative.	Scientific method. Objective data. Quantitative and qualitative.	Subjective and objective research methods. Qualitative.	Subjective inquiry based on ideology and values. Both quantitative and qualitative.	Respectful and reciprocal. ^e Inclusive, healing, educational, empowering. ^f Arising from community, recursive. ^g Decolonizing. Privileging of Indigenous values, accountable and beneficial to community. ^h Local. ⁱ Story, sharing circles, protocol. ^j

(All rows and first four columns from Willis (2007), *Foundations of Qualitative Research*, Table 3.1, Table 3.2, and Table 4.1. Some information also from Pickard (2013), *Research Methods in Information*, Table 1.1. Last column derived by author from the various footnoted readings.)

^a Shawn Wilson, *Research is ceremony: Indigenous research methods*. (Black Point, N.S.: Fernwood Pub. 2008):73.

^b Ibid., p92.

^c Ibid., 74

^d Ibid., 74.

^e Ibid., 77.

^f Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing methodologies: Research and indigenous peoples* (2nd ed.). (London; New York: New York: Zed Books, 2012): 130.

^g Mary Hermes, "Research methods as a situated response: Towards a First Nations' methodology." *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, 11(1), (1998) 166.

^h Margaret Kovach, (2009). *Indigenous methodologies: Characteristics, conversations and contexts*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (2009) 48.

ⁱ Shawn Wilson, *Research is ceremony*, 136.

^j Margaret Kovach, *Indigenous methodologies*, 44.

Table Source: Schroeder, R. (2014). Exploring Critical and Indigenous Research Methods with a Research Community: Part II – The Landing. *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*, December 2. <http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2014/exploring-the-landing/>