



ECDE7012

Session 2:
25th January, 2024

Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen Hapus!

(Happy Saint Dwynwen's Day!)

St Dwynwen's Day is celebrated in Wales on the 25th January.

Who was St Dwynwen?

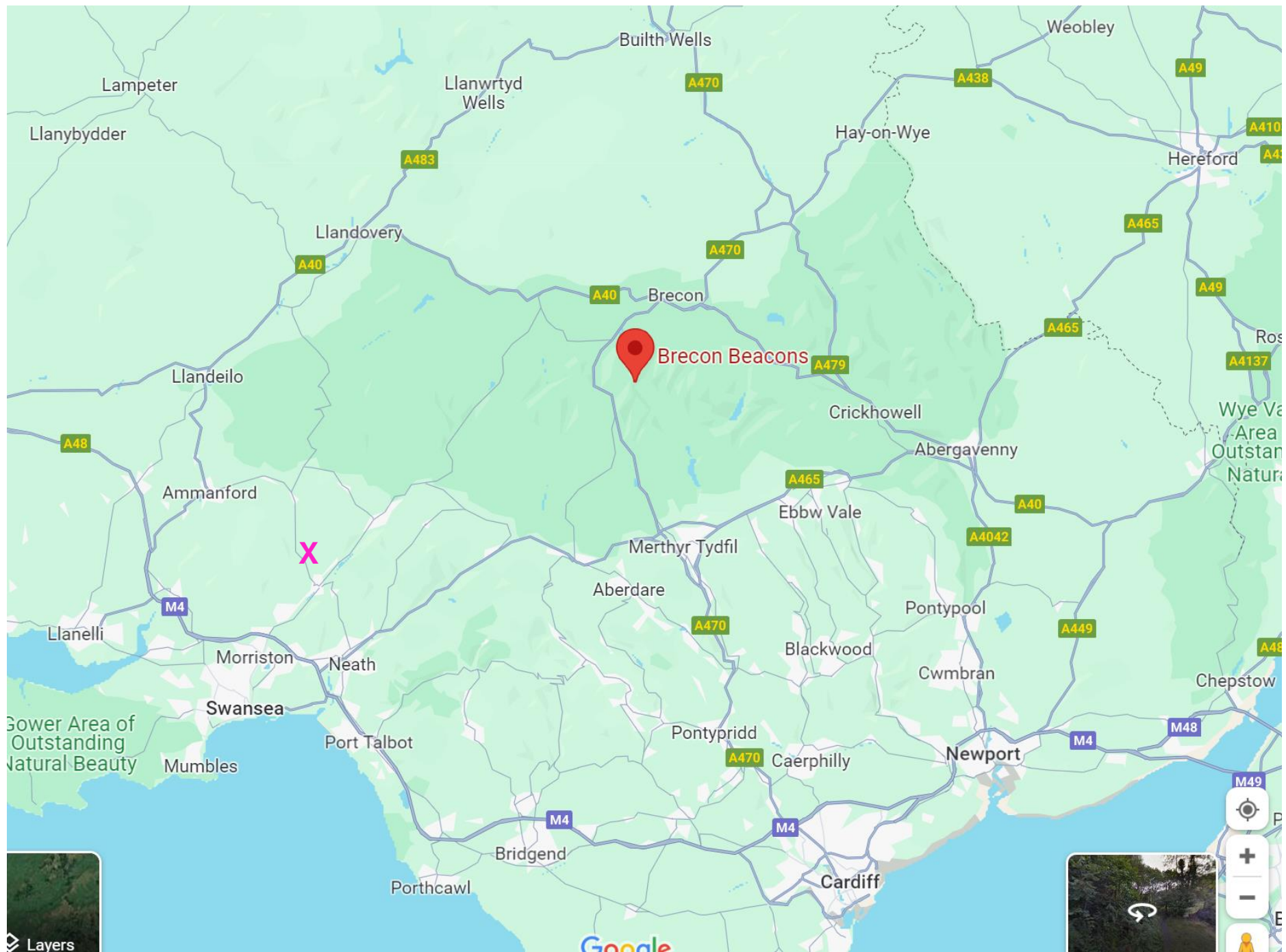
Saint Dwynwen was a fourth century Welsh princess who lived in what is now the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park.





Bannau Brycheiniog
(Brecon Beacons)
National Park

We are here!

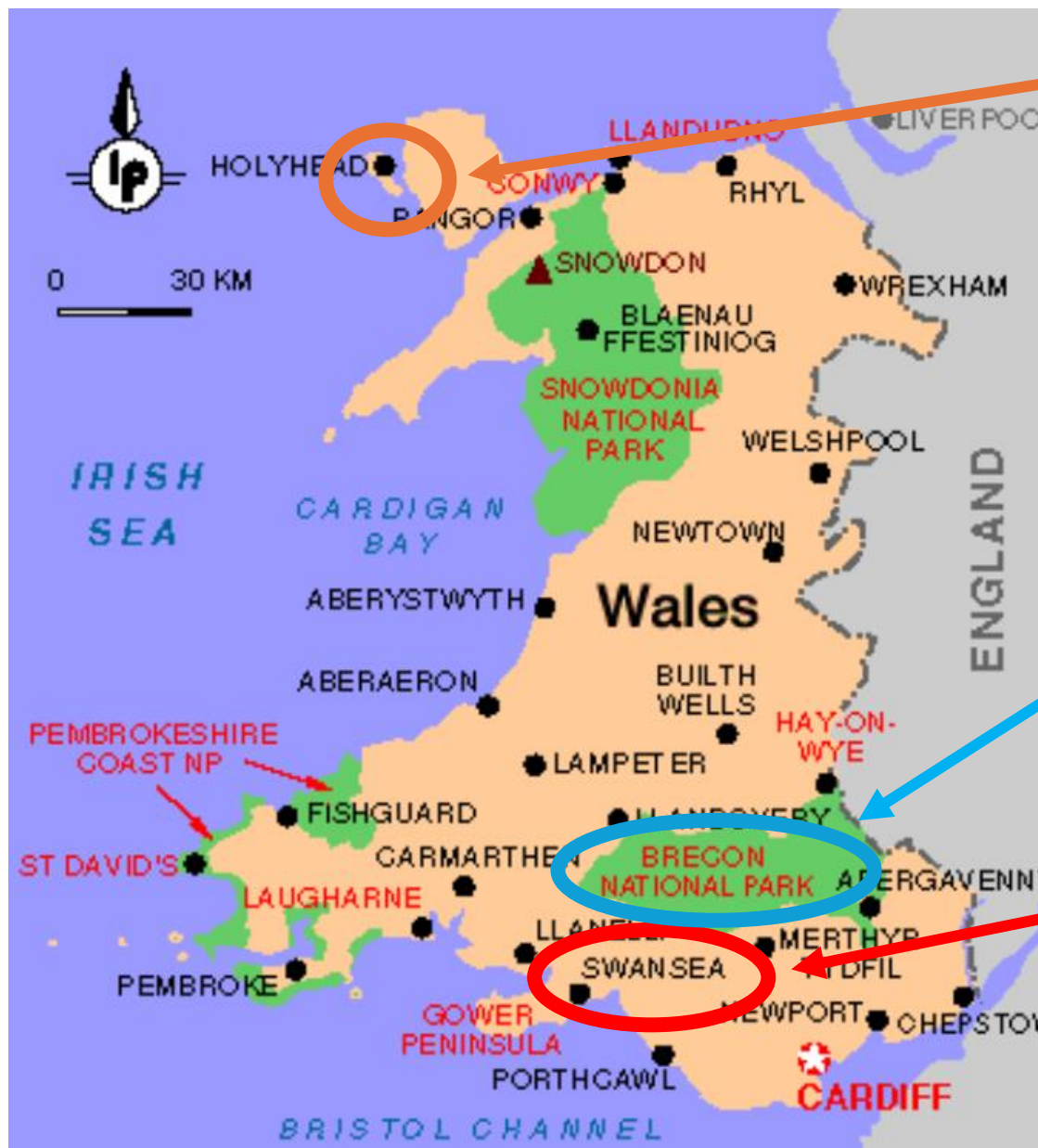


Dwynwen was the prettiest of King Brychan Brycheiniog's 24 daughters. She fell in love with a local boy called Maelon Dafodrill, but King Brychan had already arranged for her to marry another prince. Maelon took the news badly, so the distraught Dwynwen fled to the woods to weep and begged God to help her. She was visited by an angel who gave her a potion to help her forget Maelon, and this turned him into a block of ice.

God then granted Dwynwen three wishes. They were:

1. that Maelon be thawed;
2. for God to help all true lovers;
3. that she would never marry.

In gratitude, Dwynwen became a nun and set up a convent on Llanddwyn Island, on Anglesey.



Anglesey (Ynys Mon)

Bannau Brycheiniog
(Brecon Beacons)
National Park

We are here!

What happens on Saint Dwynwen's Day?



Leaves	Love grows
Ring	Together forever
Key and keyhole	Home together / my house is yours / security
Horseshoe	Good luck and happiness
Knot	The entwining of lives / together forever





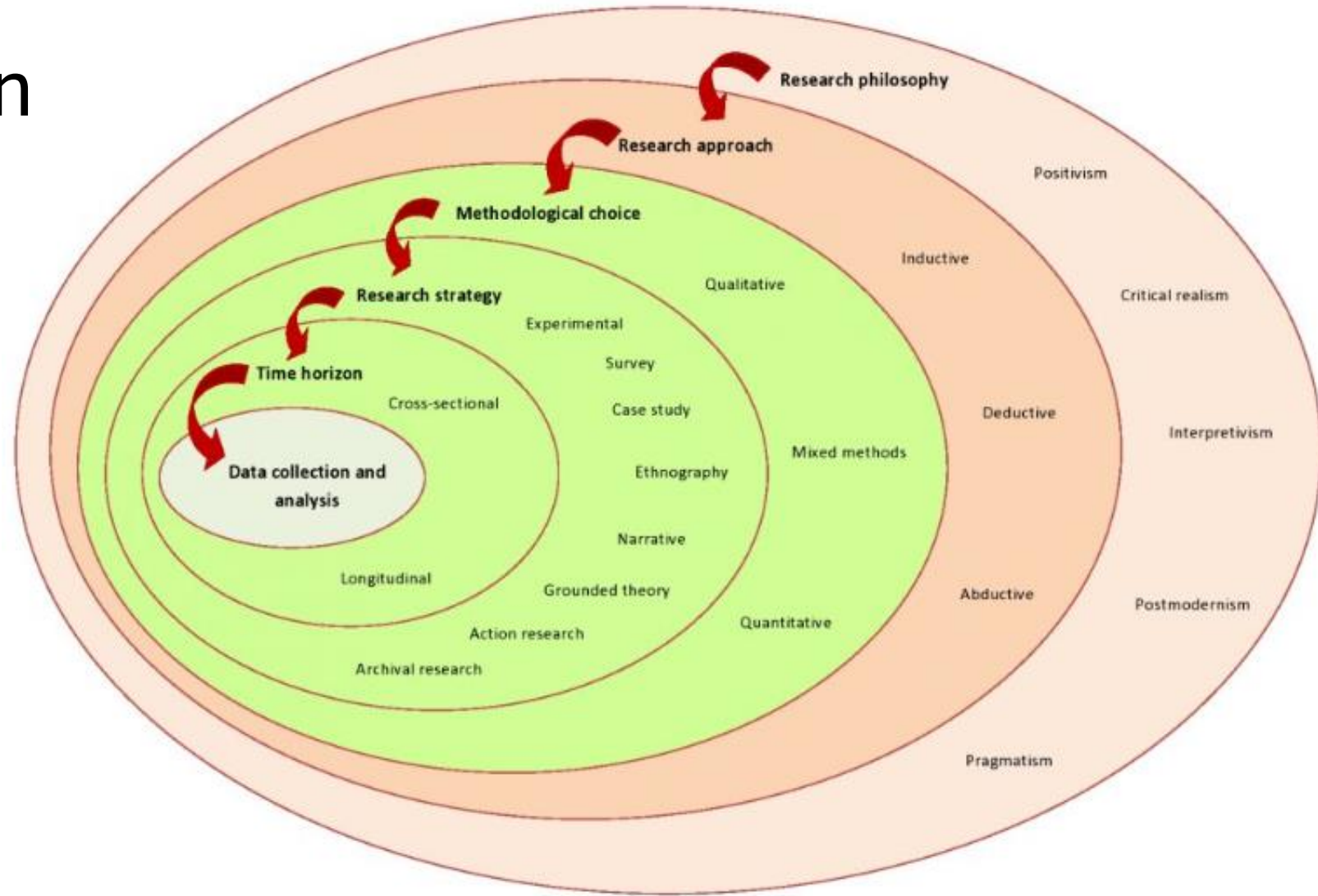
What is Research Design?

The Research Onion

Start from the outside and peel each layer away until you reach the core.

These layers are broken up into six main areas:

- research philosophy;
- research approach;
- research methodology choices;
- research strategy;
- time horizons;
- data collection techniques and analysis.



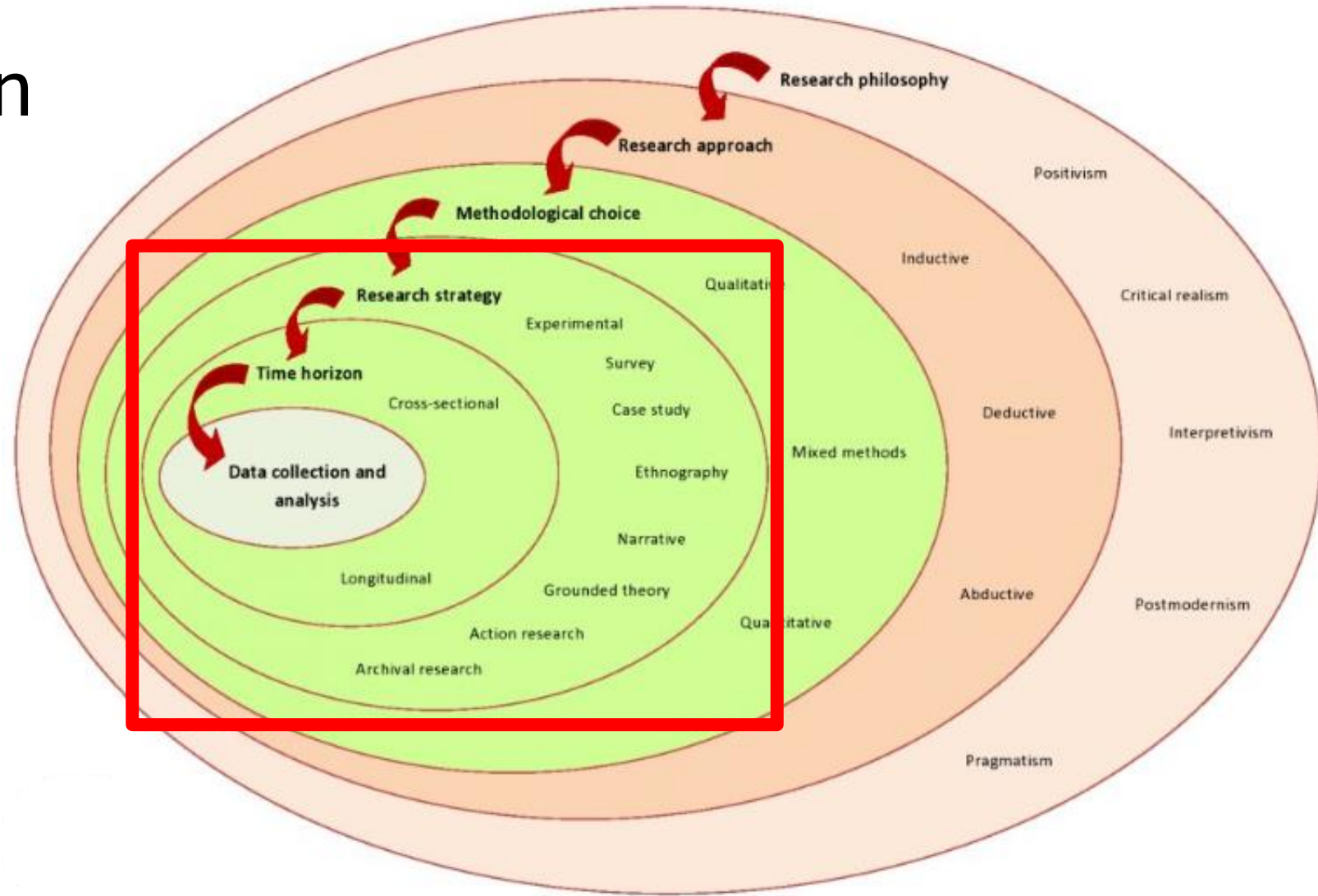
(Saunders et al., 2007)

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(Saunders et al., 2007)



Research Design Approaches

Archival Research

For studies that involve extensive examination of the past - including people, events and documents.

Purpose = to draw conclusions about the present and future, based on research conducted in the past





Archival Research

Can include the examination of:

- letters,
- diaries,
- social media platforms,
- maps,
- museum collections,
- corporate archives,
- special collections, e.g. football match statistics.

Experimental Research

- A study conducted with a scientific approach using two sets of variables.
- The first set acts as a constant, which you use to measure the differences of the second set.





Types of experimental research design

Pre-experimental
research design

A group is kept under observation after implementing cause and effect factors. You'll conduct this research to understand whether further investigation is necessary for these particular groups.

True experimental
research design

Relies on statistical analysis to prove or disprove a hypothesis, making it the most accurate form of research. Only **true design** can establish a cause-effect relationship within a group.

Quasi-experimental
research design

Quasi-experiments = studies that aim to evaluate interventions but do not use randomisation. Similar to randomised trials, they aim to demonstrate causality between an intervention and an outcome.

Survey Design

Check, J. & Schutt, R.K. Survey research (2012). In: J. Check, R. K. Schutt, editors. *Research methods in education*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. pp. 159–185.
Singleton, R.A. & Straits, B.C. (2009) *Approaches to social research*. New York: Oxford University Press;.

Defined as:

"the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions".
(Check & Schutt, 2012)

Has historically included large population-based data collection.

Allows for a variety of methods to recruit participants, collect data and include various instruments.

Can use:

- Quantitative research strategies - e.g. using questionnaires with numerically rated items
- Qualitative research strategies - e.g. using open-ended questions
- Both strategies (i.e. mixed methods)

Often used to describe and explore human behaviour = frequently used in social and psychological research (Singleton & Straits, 2009).



Survey or Questionnaire? What's the difference?

The terms 'survey' and 'questionnaire' are often (wrongly) used interchangeably.

This is because people frequently view them as meaning the same thing.

Questionnaire = a **research tool**

Comprising sets of questions used to **obtain answers** from respondents.

Questionnaire definition

- A questionnaire is the set of questions given to participants of your research project. It may be part of a wider survey. However, the completion of a questionnaire alone will not provide the answers you are looking for.
- The individual results from one questionnaire will tell you information about one participant. The act of administering a questionnaire is not considered to be a survey. This is because the data gathered from questionnaires only becomes valuable once interpreted as part of a wider survey.
- It might be useful for you to picture the questionnaire as a physical sheet of paper itself.

Survey = a research method

Used to collect and analyse data from predefined participants to gain insights.

Survey definition

- A survey is the combination of questions, processes and methodologies that analyse data about others. A survey always involves questionnaires BUT a single questionnaire is only one small part of a survey.
- So, the questionnaire is the set of questions given to individuals. For a questionnaire to become a survey, a few things must happen. The data collected from many questionnaire respondents is gathered. It should then be organised, before analysis and interpretation of the data.

Narrative Research Approaches

A mode of inquiry is used by researchers from a wide variety of disciplines

(e.g. anthropology, cultural studies, economics, education, history, linguistics, medicine, nursing, psychology, social work, sociology.)

Encompasses a range of research approaches, e.g.

- action research
- phenomenology
- grounded theory
- ethnography

Action Research

- A research method that aims to simultaneously investigate and solve an issue, i.e. it conducts research and takes action at the same time.
- It was first coined as a term in 1944 by Professor Kurt Lewin.

Three types:

- individual action research
- collaborative action research
- school-wide action research.



The Action Research Process

- Selecting a focus;
- Clarifying theories;
- Identifying research questions;
- Collecting data;
- Analysing data;
- Reporting results;
- Taking informed action.

Can include various qualitative methods, e.g.

- research journal;
- document collection and analysis;
- participant observation, questionnaires;
- structured and unstructured interviews;
- case studies.

Resources

BERA Special Issue

www.bera.ac.uk/blog-special-issues/action-research-research-into-action

Participatory Action Research Toolkit (Durham University)

www.dur.ac.uk/resources/beacon/PARtoolkit.pdf

Phenomenology

The researcher:

- looks to gather information that explains how individuals experience a phenomenon and how they feel about it.
- recognises that there is no single objective reality; instead, everyone experiences things differently.

The outcome is described from the point of view of the participants.

The researcher is able to identify themes surrounding the phenomena under investigation.



Resource

Dowling, M. & Cooney, A. (2012) 'Research approaches related to phenomenology: negotiating a complex landscape'. Nurse researcher, 20 (2):21-27.

[Dowling and Cooney 2012.pdf;jsessionid=8E86548C038E7F4D33685498C2BCB0FC\(nuigalway.ie\)](#)

Grounded Theory

Purpose = to develop a theory surrounding a social issue.

Grounded theory is unique among qualitative design approaches - it depends solely on the data gleaned through the research process to come to conclusions.

Often, the initial research question is progressively reformed and refined as more information is gathered on the topic.

In this sense, the participants help shape the study.

Resource

Chun Tie, Y., Birks, M. & Francis, K. (2019) Grounded theory research: A design framework for novice researchers. *SAGE Open Med.* 2019 Jan 2: 7.

[Grounded theory research: A design framework for novice researchers - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

Ethnography

The study of a specific grouping within a culture.

Researchers pursuing this study format will immerse themselves into the culture they are researching.

The qualitative data is gathered through direct observation of - and interaction with - participants who belong to that culture. The information is then presented through their perspective.

This type of study aims to understand group culture.

Resources

University of Kansas

[A Simple Guide to Ethnography \(ku.edu\)](#)

Reeves, S., Peller, J., Goldman, J. & Kitto, S. (2013) Ethnography in qualitative educational research: AMEE Guide No. 80, Medical Teacher, 35:8, e1365-e1379

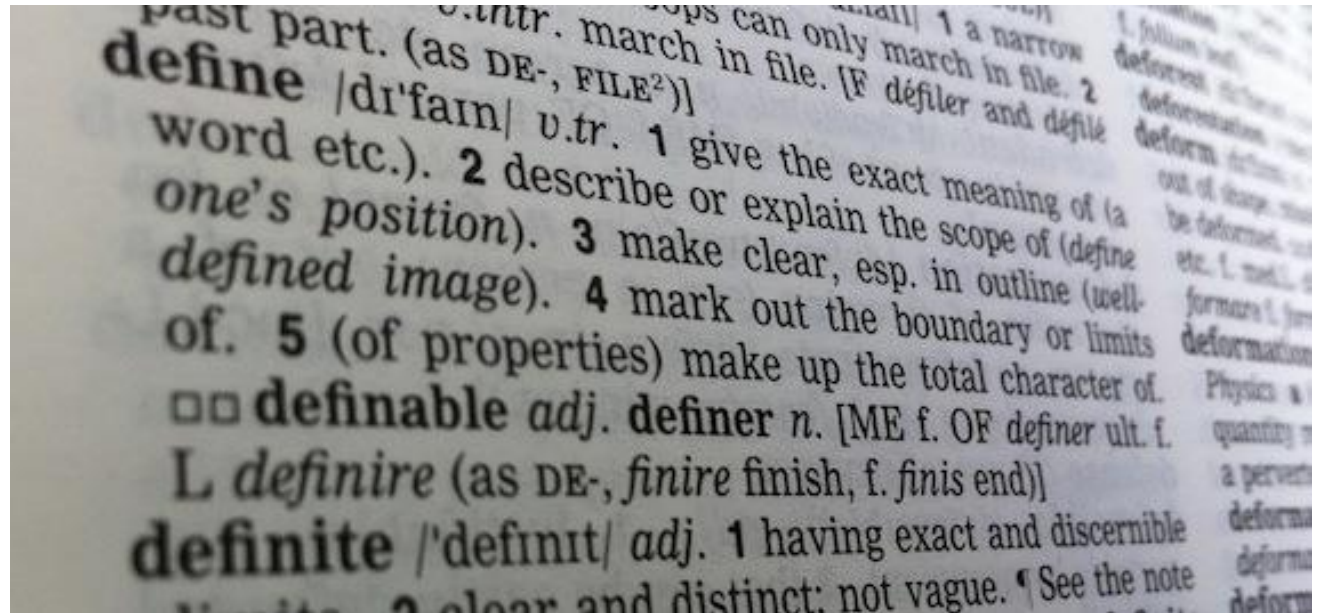
[www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.3109/0142159X.2013.804977](#)

Case Study

- One of the most common qualitative designs,
- Used to examine a person, group, community or institution.
- The researcher may draw upon multiple sources of data, such as observation, interviews and documents.
- All participants chosen must share a unifying factor, which means they all must have a direct or indirect connection to the research question or subject being studied.
- After collecting the data, the researcher will analyse it to identify common or prominent themes.

Definitions of Case Study

Case study has many definitions and has been termed a 'contested terrain' (Yazan, 2015).



Yazan, B. (2015). Three Approaches to Case Study Methods in Education: Yin, Merriam, and Stake. *The Qualitative Report*, 20(2), 134-152.

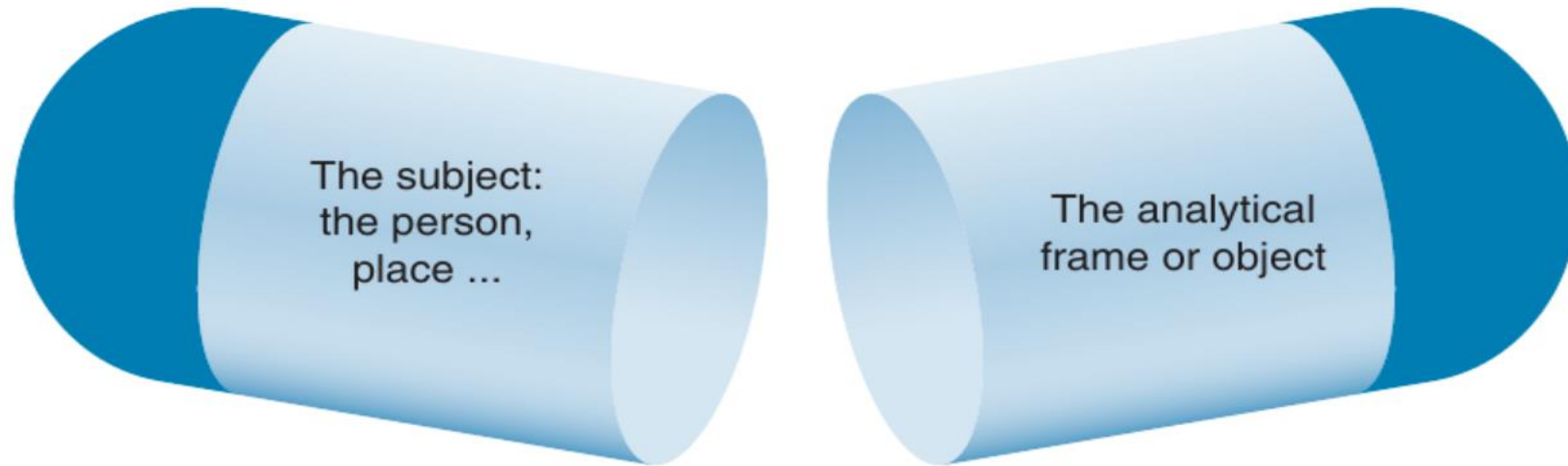
A rich picture with boundaries

A case study offers you a detailed picture with information coming from many angles or sources.

It also provides the edges – the direction in which you want your research to go and how far.



Two parts of a case study, each part needing the other:



Thomas (2021)

Scenario

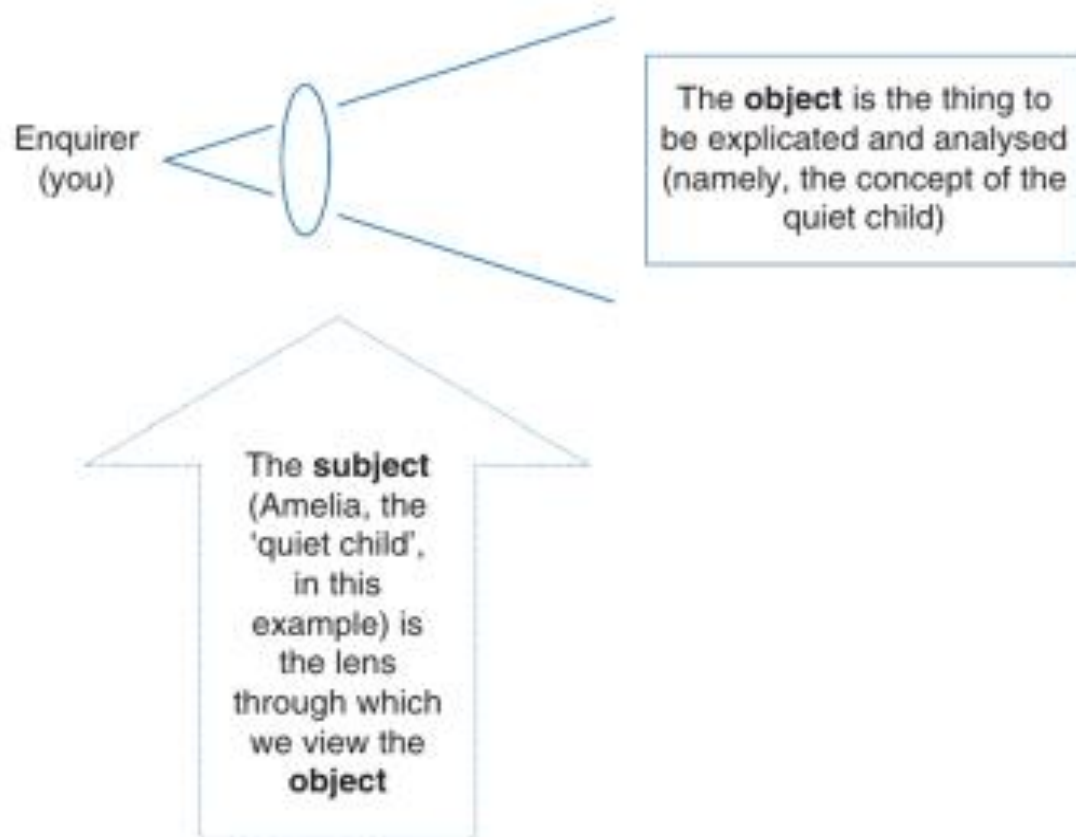
(taken from Thomas, 2021) -
bringing the subject and object
together

You are interested in the phenomenon of children who are withdrawn, sometimes called 'quiet children'.

If 'quiet children' were your topic of interest, they would be your **object**.

Given this object – or topic of interest – it would be useful to choose a case study **subject** a kind of child who demonstrated these behaviours.

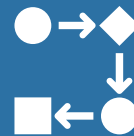
Lens analogy:



Types of Case Study:



Evaluative – the aim is to find out how well something is working or whether it has worked as expected



Exploratory – where little is known and the principal purpose is to establish the 'shape' of the problem or issue



Explanatory – where the phenomenon in which you are interested needs to be unpacked; the connections between different parts of the issue need unravelling and the case study offers a route to explanation

Key Elements of Case Study:

Case study as research approach

Bounded unit – a person, a group, an institution or organisation

Located within personal, professional, local and national communities

Involves interactions, communications, relationships and practices between the case and the wider world and vice versa

Focus on collecting rich data – capturing the complexity of case

Data may be collected over extended periods with repeated collections or may be collected during an intensive but short period of time

Requires spending time within the world of those being researched

Uses a variety of data collection tools (interviews, observations, reflective journals and others) and different perspectives (child, teacher, parent, researcher) to provide depth

Employs two or more forms of data collection tool and/or two or more perspectives. This helps to triangulate the data and reinforces the legitimacy of the conclusions drawn.



Resources

Flinders University

[Case study guide \(flinders.edu.au\)](https://www.flinders.edu.au/case-study-guide)

Colorado State University

[Guide: Designing and Conducting Case Studies \(colostate.edu\)](https://www.colostate.edu/guide-designing-and-conducting-case-studies)

Follow-up task

Follow up thinking task:

- What might your research design include?
- Why have you chosen this approach?
- What do you think are the benefits of this approach?
- Are there any limitations?



Next week