



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

ECDE 7012

Research Design and Management in Education

Session 1: 24th January 2026

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Trawsnewid Addysg, Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education, Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Today's session

- Introduction to module aims and objectives, including the assignment specifications
- Reflect upon and refine the focus of our intended research
- Consolidate the knowledge and skills gained in ECDE7002 and ECDE7016 and apply them in making decisions about research design



A close-up photograph of two hands shaking in a firm grip. The hand on the left is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved button-down shirt. The hand on the right is wearing a dark-colored, long-sleeved shirt. The background is a blurred, neutral-toned wall.

Introductions

Task 1

Consider the following:

- Is your proposed research from ECDE7002 a project you want to take forward?
- If so, what alterations might you make? Can you refine / develop / amend it?
- If not, then identify an area of research interest that you want to explore in this module.

Consider the question:

What gap in knowledge or understanding will your research fill?



Module Handbook

MODULE HANDBOOK

ECDE 7012

**Research Design and Management
in Education**

Doctorate in Education (EdD)

LEVEL 7

Institute of Education and Humanities

2025 – 2026

Module Aims and Outcomes

Module Aims and Outcomes

*This module builds directly from **ECDE7002** and revisits some material in order to deepen and broaden research insights.*

AIMS

- To plan and design a research project which improves and informs practice.
- To ensure that all ethical considerations are addressed during the planning process.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- **Identify, through complex inquiry**, an area of study which would be suitable for a substantial piece of academic research.
- **Critically reflect upon the design and methodology** required to engage with an academic research project.
- Clearly identify and critically **reflect upon the ethical issues** involved in undertaking an academic research project, particularly child consent in education research.
- Evaluate in depth the potential challenges of undertaking research within the specified area of study.



ECDE 7012 PT Cohort
2026_GRP



Dates and Times:

DATES AND TIMES

Date:	Time:	Location:
Saturday 24 th January 2026	9:30-4	IQ304
W/C 2nd February 2026		Online
W/C 9 th February 2026		Online
W/C 23 rd February 2026		Online
W/C 9 th March 2026	Individual Tutorials	Online
Saturday 21 st March 2026		IQ304
W/C 13 th April 2026	Individual Tutorials	Online
W/C 20 th April 2026	Optional Drop-in	Online
27 th April 2026	Assessment Deadline for components 1, 2 and 3	
27 th May 2026	Assessment Return	



The background is a dark wooden surface. It is cluttered with various items: several sheets of paper with text and diagrams, numerous colorful sticky notes (pink, yellow, blue, green, orange), and various geometric shapes like squares and triangles in different colors. Some papers have titles like 'EMPLOYE', 'IDEA', and 'ASSESSMENT'. There are also some small icons and charts on the papers.

ASSESSMENT

Submission Date:

Monday 27th April 2026:
23:59

Return Date:

Wednesday 27th May 2026:
12:00

Assessment Component 1

40%

Written Assignment: 3200 words

Select an issue in education that you wish to explore.

Present a short literature review to justify why the issue is important to the community.

Establish clear research question(s), aims and objectives for the research.



Assessment Component 1: Suggested Structure

Assessment Component 1

Select an issue in education that you wish to explore. Presenting a short literature review to justify why the issue is important to the community; establish clear research question(s), aims and objectives for the research.

Written Assignment: 3200 words

Suggested Content	Approximate Word Count
Aim, focus and purpose of the <u>research</u> What is the purpose/aim of your research? What is the issue that you want to address in your research? Why are you interested in this? Why is the issue important? Who would benefit from the information that you intend to research?	200
Overview of relevant literature This section should be based on your research topic. It should consist of a discussion of key literature that relates to your study / research question. Remember to: • Summarise and <u>synthesise</u>: give an overview of the main points of each source and combine them into a coherent whole; • Analyse and <u>interpret</u>: don't just paraphrase other researchers. If possible, discuss the significance of the findings in relation to the literature as a <u>whole</u>; • Critically <u>evaluate</u>: mention the strengths and weaknesses of your sources, consider the author(s) and their expertise; • Write in well-structured paragraphs: use transitions and topic sentences to draw connections, <u>comparisons</u> and contrasts. You should refer to literature wherever possible.	1500
Your Research Study What is the relevance of the literature that you have selected to your own study? How has the literature led you to form your research question(s)? Do you hope to fill a gap in the current literature? Are you taking the research of another author further within your own context? What is/are your research question/s? What are the aims and objectives of the research?	1500
References	

Assessment Component 2

40%

Written Assignment: 3200 words

Describe and critically evaluate the philosophical worldview that underpins your research, justifying why it is appropriate.

Present a plan for an appropriate data collection process and associated analysis of the data, reflecting on its strengths and limitations.



Suggested Content	Approximate Word Count
Research Context Opening sentence - What is the purpose/aim of your research? What is the issue that you want to address? What is your research question?	100
Research Design / Methodology This section could include: Within which philosophical worldview are you working? For example, positivist, interpretivist/constructivist, transformative/critical or pragmatic. What is this and why does this matter? Are you using a quantitative / qualitative / mixed-method approach? Why? Does your choice of philosophical worldview/paradigm have an impact on the approach to data collection that you will take? You could also discuss researcher positionality in this section. For each element, justify your choices by citing literature. You should refer to literature wherever possible.	800
Research Methods / Tools Write about the research methods that you have chosen that will give you sufficient data to answer your research question. Explain your observation schedule / interview questions / questionnaire questions / other method. Have you used a specific structure? (closed or open questions, tick boxes etc.); a specific scale? (e.g. Leuven) For each method , discuss these points, justifying the choices that you have made: - What does the research literature tell us about the method? - What are the strengths and limitations of the method? You should also discuss: -your intended sample - ethical Considerations You should refer to literature wherever possible.	1300

Assessment Component 2: Suggested Structure

You should refer to literature wherever possible.	
Data Presentation and Analysis Method(s) Explain the method(s) that you will use to report your data. Refer to relevant literature to support your decisions. For each method , discuss these points, justifying the choices that you have made: - What does the research literature tell us about the method? - What are the strengths and limitations of the method? You should refer to literature wherever possible.	800
Conclusions Critically examine the work that you have planned for your research <u>study</u> ; for example: - Do you think that the methods of collecting data are reliable? - Do you think that the methods of collecting data are valid? - Do you think that the findings would be generalisable?	200
References	

Assessment Component 3 20%

Written
Assignment
(1600 words
equivalent)

Complete a draft of the UWTSD Ethics
Form for your proposed research
project.

Ensure that you consider consent
/assent processes for **all** your
participants.



PG2 / E1 FORM

APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL APPROVAL

RESEARCH STUDENTS

This form is to be completed by the student within **SIX** months for full-time students and **TWELVE** months for part time students, after the commencement of the research degree or following progression to Part Two of your course.

Once complete, submit this form via the **MyTSD Doctoral College Portal** at (<https://mytsd.uwtsd.ac.uk>).

This document is also available in Welsh.

RESEARCH STAFF ONLY

All communications relating to this application during its processing must be in writing and emailed to pgresearch@uwtsd.ac.uk, with the title 'Ethical Approval' followed by your name.

STUDENTS ON UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS PROGRAMMES should submit this form (and receive the outcome) via systems explained to you by the supervisor/module leader.

In order for research to result in benefit and minimise risk of harm, it must be conducted ethically. A researcher may not be covered by the University's insurance if ethical approval has not been obtained prior to commencement.

The University follows the OECD Frascati manual definition of **research activity**: "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications". As such this covers activities undertaken by members of staff, postgraduate research students, and both taught postgraduate and undergraduate students working on dissertations/projects.

The individual undertaking the research activity is known as the "principal researcher".

Ethical approval is not required for routine audits, performance reviews, quality assurance studies, testing within normal educational requirements, and literary or artistic criticism.

Please read the notes for guidance before completing ALL sections of the form.

Upcoming sessions on ethics

The Ethics Committee are holding monthly online drop-in sessions for students (and staff) to ask any ethics related questions. Whether you need support with your PG2 form or grappling with an unexpected ethical issue in your research, this is for you!

4th February 2026: 13.00

4th March 2026: 13.00

22nd April 2026: 13.00

More details and joining link can be found on the Doctoral College Platform events page [here](#).

UWT - VeryConnect

Post-It Task:

- What were the key learning/ development points from ECDE7002 and ECDE7016?
- Can you note what you need or would like to develop further during ECDE7012?



Key Questions

- What is/are the gap(s) in knowledge or understanding that the research project seeks to fill?
- What is/are the research question(s) that will address these gaps?
- What is the nature of the knowledge or understanding to be generated?

Why this, why now?

What makes you think this?

- What else do you need to know / to tell the reader?



Task 2

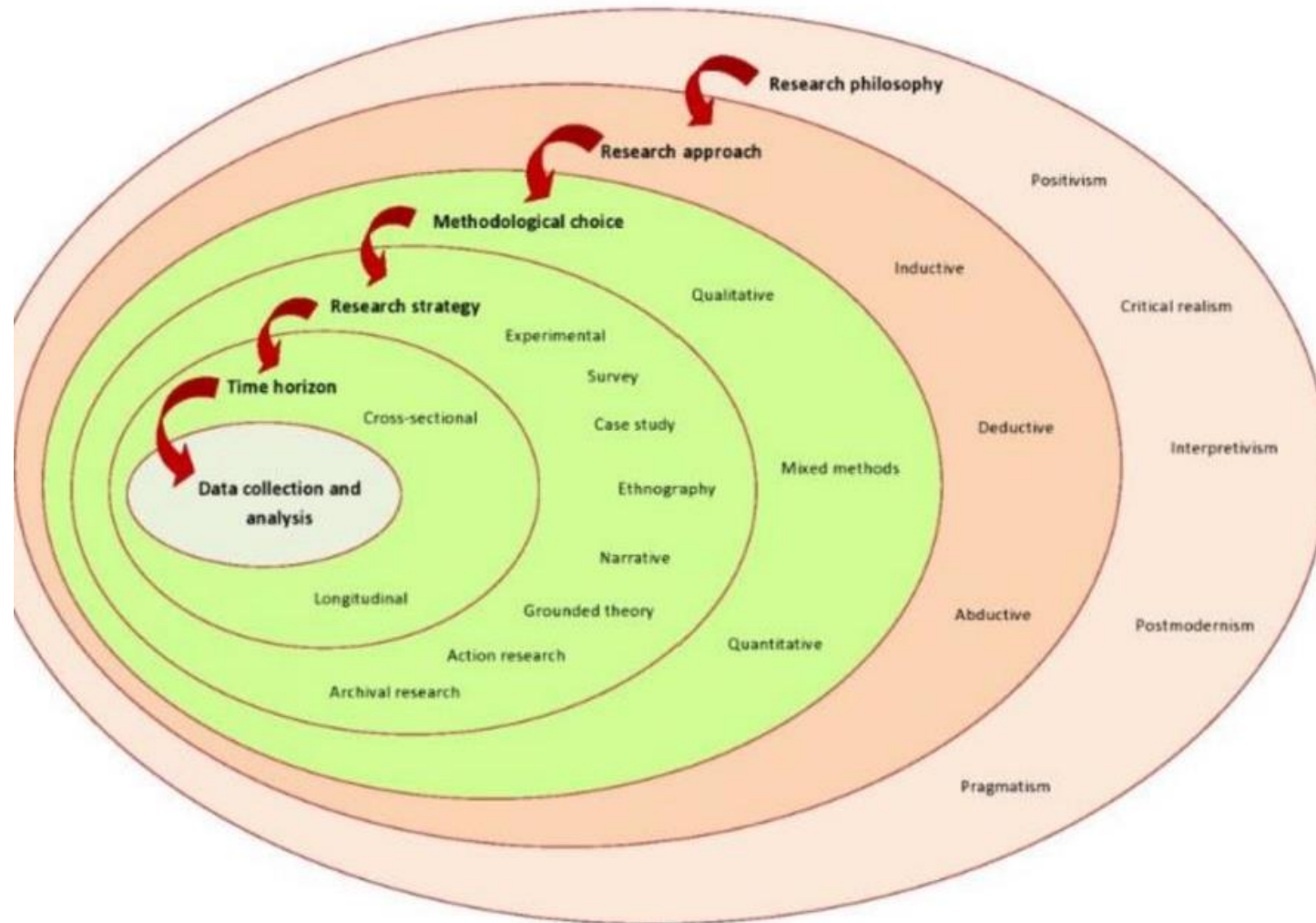
Are you able to answer the following questions?

- ⌚ What is the area of research that you want to explore? - a research problem being addressed? (What? Why?)
- ⌚ Do you have ideas of research questions?
- ⌚ Do you know what your research methods will be? (How? Why?)
- ⌚ Do you know what your research paradigm might be? (Why?)
- ⌚ What perspectives and experiences do you bring to your research that might influence the outcomes?
- ⌚ Is there any further reading that you need to plan for?

A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a breakfast table. In the foreground, a white coffee cup sits on a saucer to the left. Next to it is a stack of folded newspapers. To the right, a small white plate holds two golden-brown, flaky pastries. The background is softly blurred, showing a window with bright light and some greenery. The word "Break" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

Break

[illegible]



(Saunders et al., 2007)

KWL Task

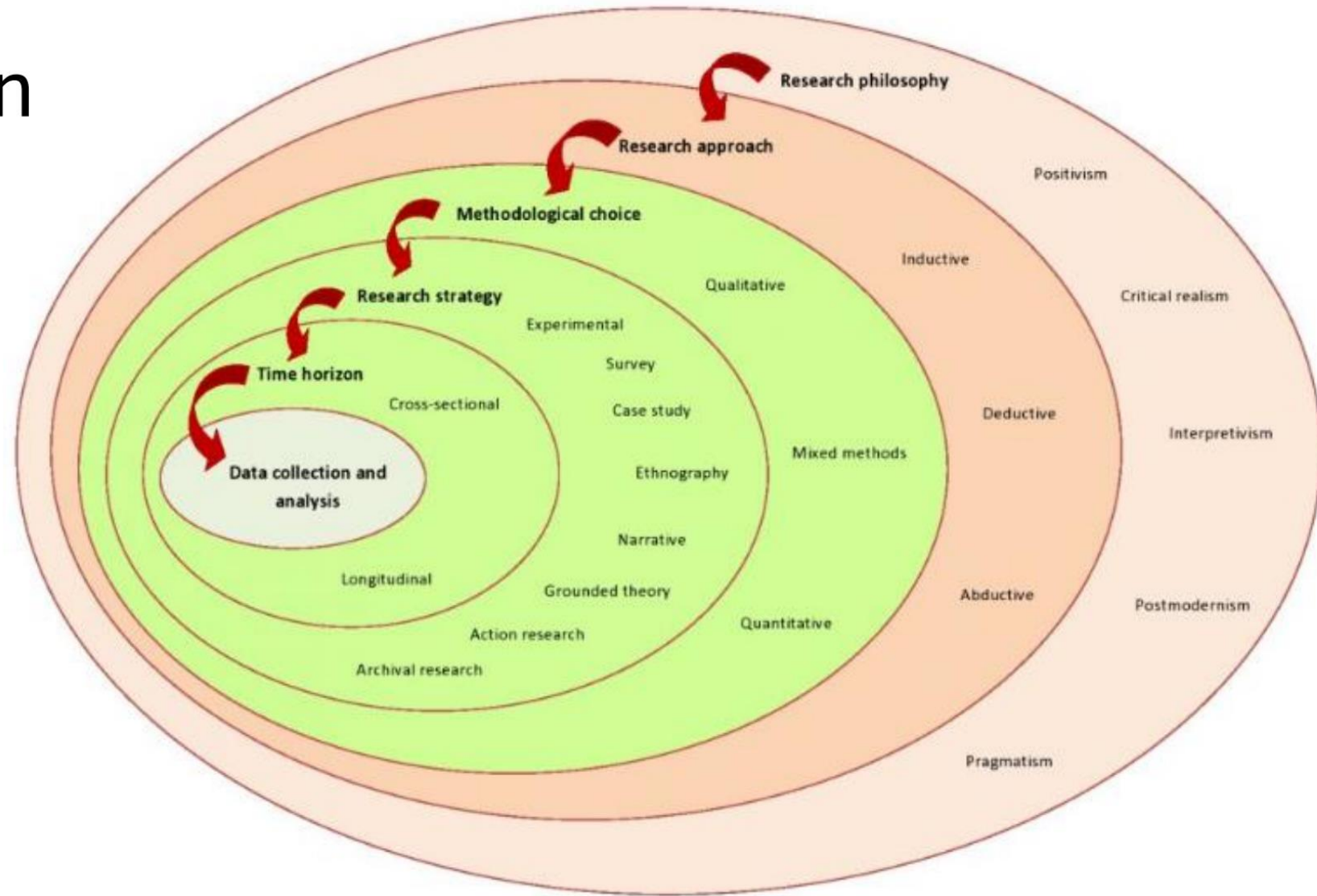
K	W	L

The Research Onion

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

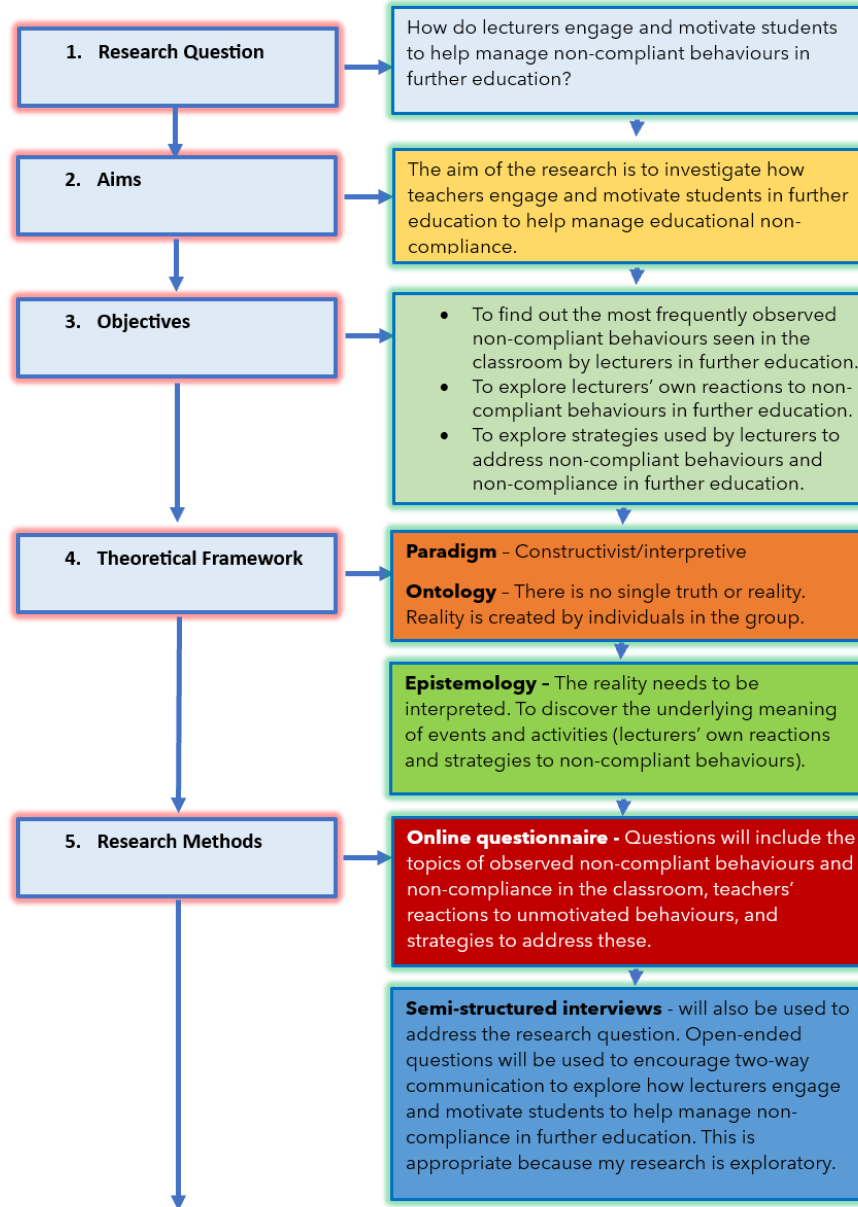
These layers are broken up into six main areas:

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



(Saunders et al., 2007)

Research Design

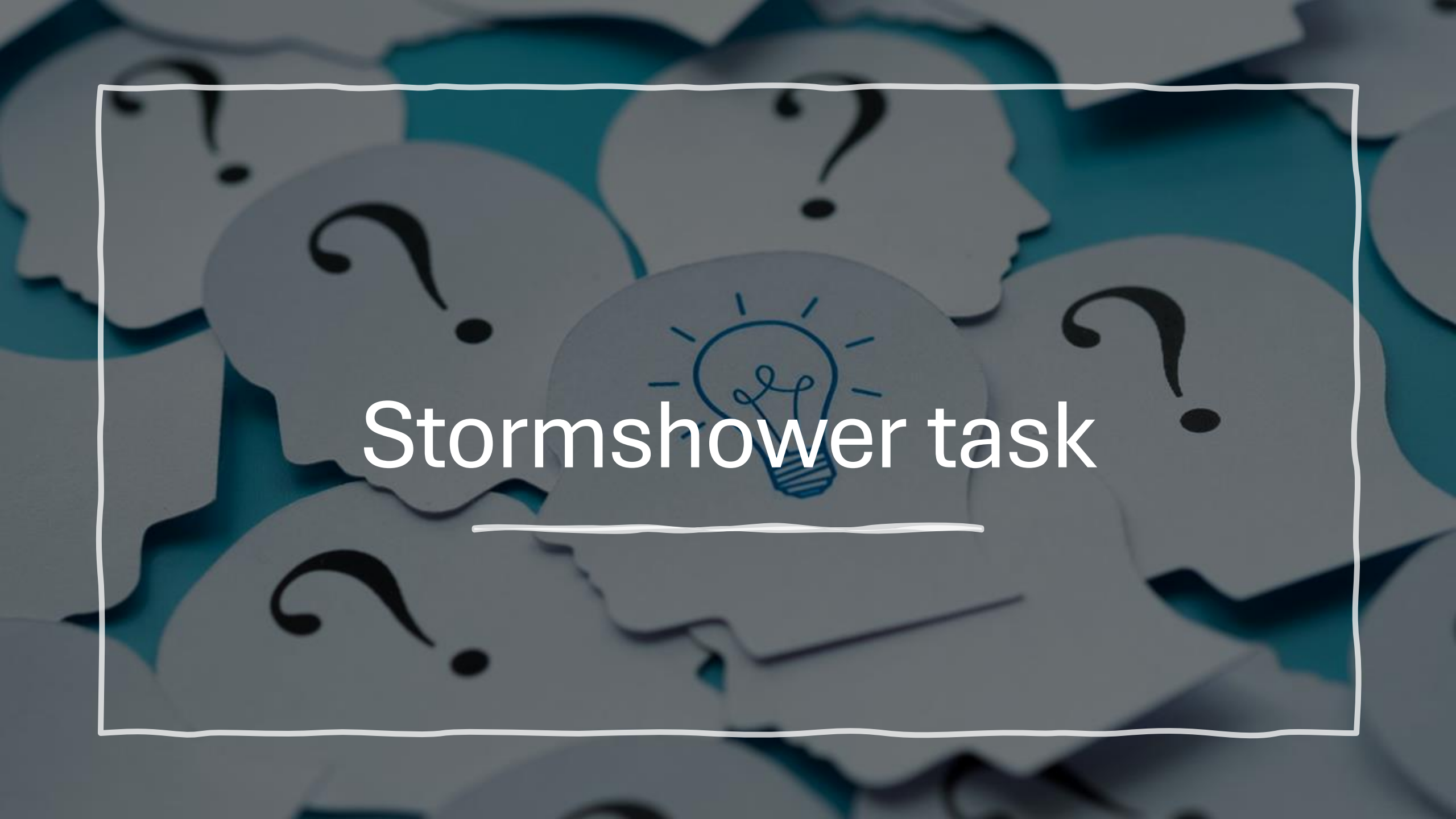


A brown paper envelope is shown, slightly tilted. It has a white rectangular label at the bottom. The envelope is made of textured, fibrous paper. The flap is folded down, creating a triangular shape. The label is plain white with black text.

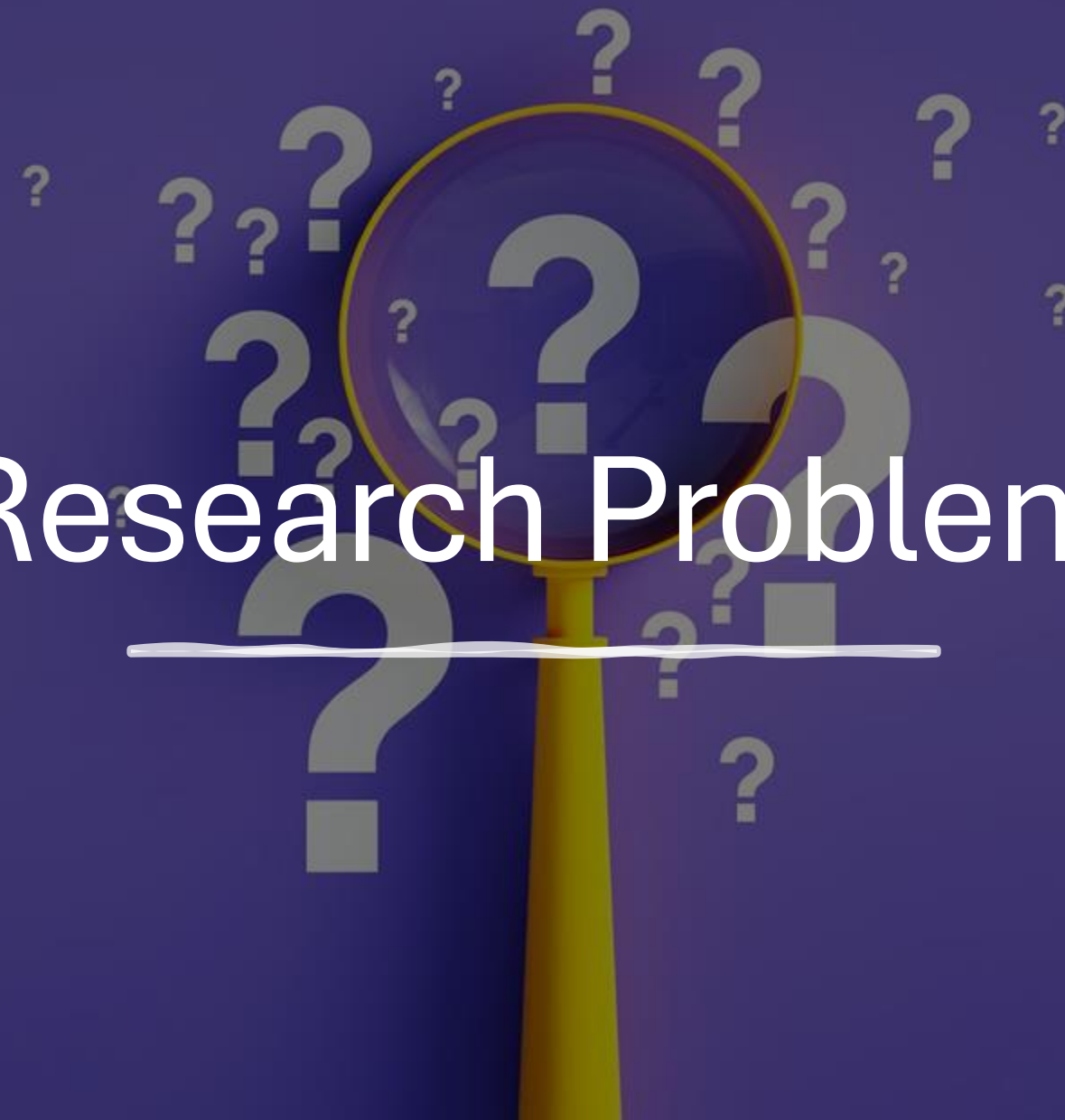
Research Design Task

Scenario



The background features a repeating pattern of stylized human head silhouettes in profile, facing right. Each head contains a large black question mark. The silhouettes are a light gray color, and the background is a darker gray. A central, slightly larger head silhouette is highlighted with a blue lightbulb icon inside it. The lightbulb has a yellow glow and radiating lines. The entire scene is framed by a white, hand-drawn style border.

Stormshower task



Research Problem

Research Problem Statement: a clear, concise summary of the problem that you wish to address. It should:

- Contextualise the problem. What do we already know? Where and when does the problem arise? Who does the problem affect? What attempts have been made to solve the problem? Has the problem been defined/explored in academic literature?
- Describe the exact issue your research will address. What do we still need to know?
- Show the relevance of the problem. Why do we need to know more about this? What will happen if the problem is not addressed? Who will feel the consequences? Does the problem have wider relevance or significance? How will resolving the problem advance the understanding of the topic?
- Set the objectives of the research. What will you do to find out more?



Example:

"Despite the increasing prevalence of mental health issues among adolescents, there is a lack of effective school-based interventions that address these challenges. This research seeks to investigate the impact of a peer support program on reducing anxiety and depression levels in high school students. By identifying the specific needs of students and evaluating the effectiveness of peer support, this study aims to contribute to the development of more effective mental health resources within educational settings."

The Research Question



Thomas (2026, pp.8-9) identifies 4 broad categories of research questions involved in social science research:

What's the situation?

What's going on here?

What happens when ...?

What is related to what?

Does your question require a descriptive or an explanatory answer?

- What are the main ways in which pupils arrive at school?
- What are the predominant ways in which anti-infection measures are being ignored in Hospital X?
- What are consumers' most trusted commercial websites?
- What factor are determining pupils' choices concerning travel to campus?
- Why has there been resistance to anti-infection measures being implemented in Hospital X?
- Are there factors associated with consumers' trust of commercial websites?

Generating a question:

- Think about your current situation (work/study)– is there something, unusual, perplexing about it?
- Ask a colleague or friend about issues in their working day
- Are there reports or stories in the media that seem intriguing or puzzling?
- Use the internet/websites to find out what is topical
- Thomas (2017) suggests the following websites:

www.secondarydataanalysis.com

<http://campbellcollaboration.org/>.



Developing a Working Question into a Research Question



Working Question	Working Research Question	Revised Research Question
<i>Too easy to answer; low stakes; not specific enough.</i>	<i>Higher stakes; more specific</i>	<i>More complex question; higher stakes; very specific</i>
What do people eat in Vietnam?	What does Vietnamese food reflect about Vietnamese culture?	How does Vietnamese cuisine reflect a history of colonialism?
Are people in the U.S. more obese than they used to be?	Have obesity rates in the U.S. increased over the last 100 years?	Is there a correlation between obesity rates and economic instability in the U.S. over the last 100 years?
What is the role of religion in the Middle East?	How has religion influenced politics in the Middle East in the last 50 years?	How has religion's influence on government impacted the day-to-day lives of Qatari citizens?

Task: Writing the
research question



Lunch – 30 mins

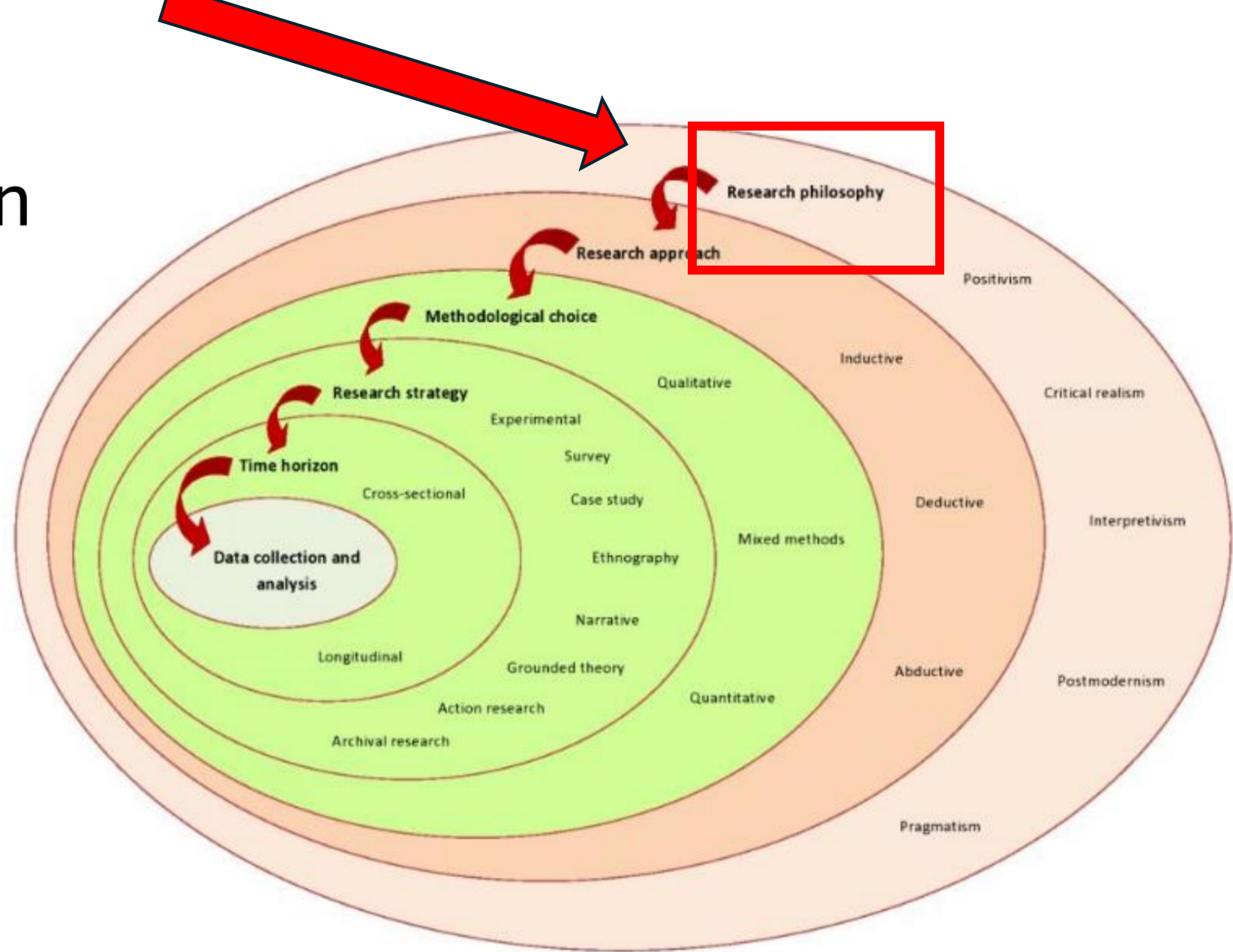


The Research Onion

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

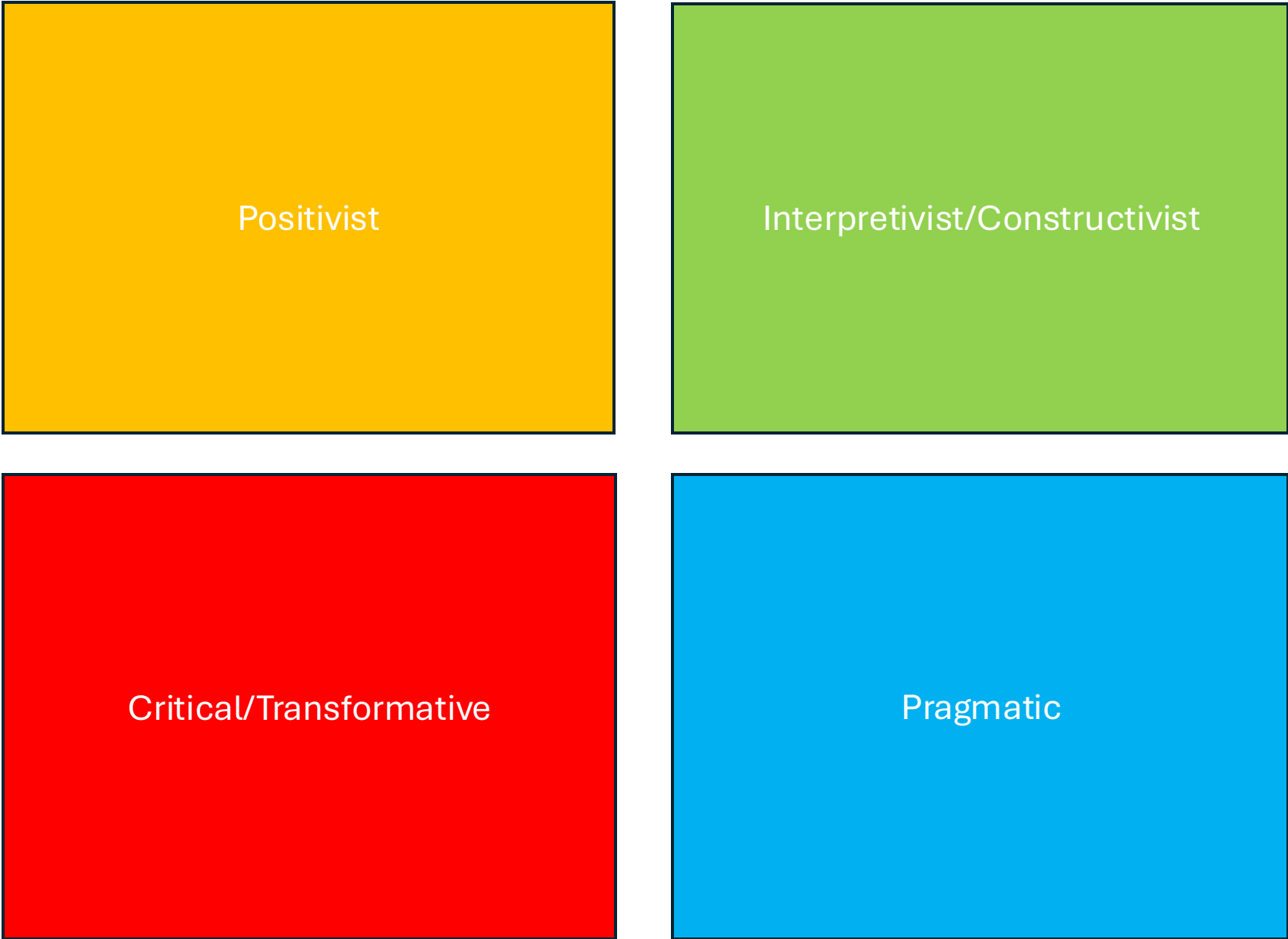
These layers are broken up into six main areas:

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



(Saunders et al., 2007)

Key paradigms in educational research:



Positivist

Interpretivist/Constructivist

Critical/Transformative

Pragmatic



Which
paradigm/worldview
is most appropriate
for your scenario?
Why?

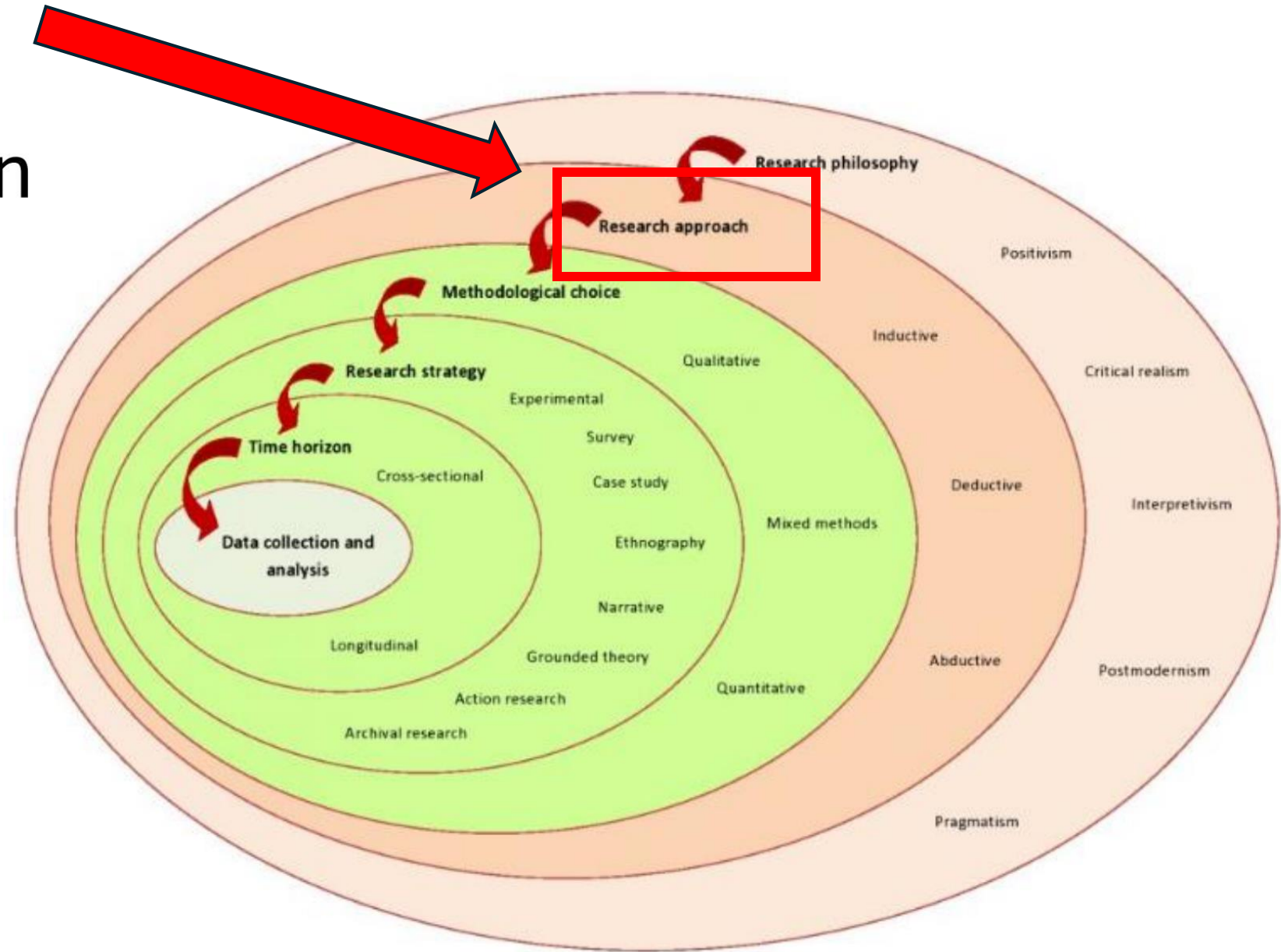


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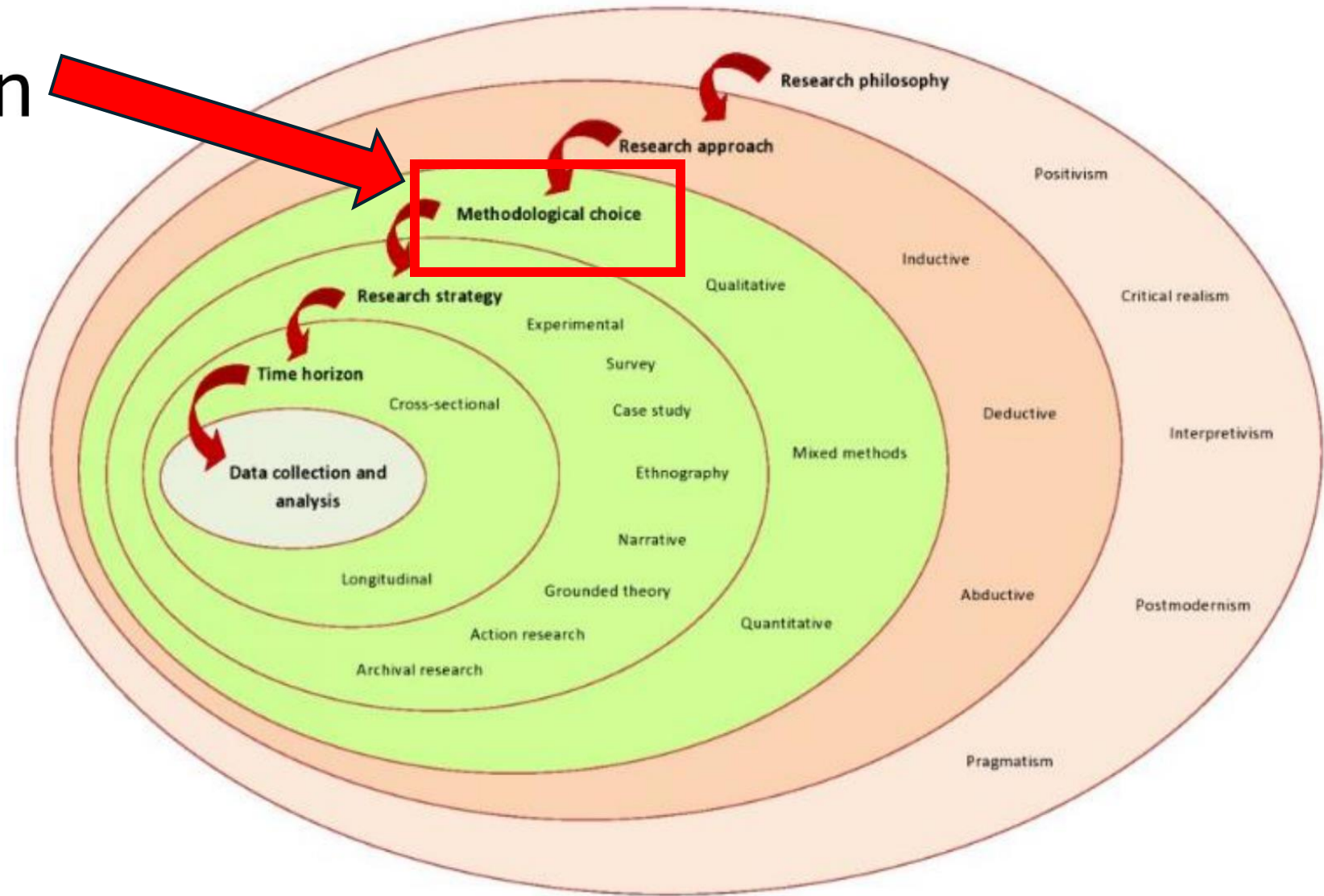
(Saunders et al., 2007)

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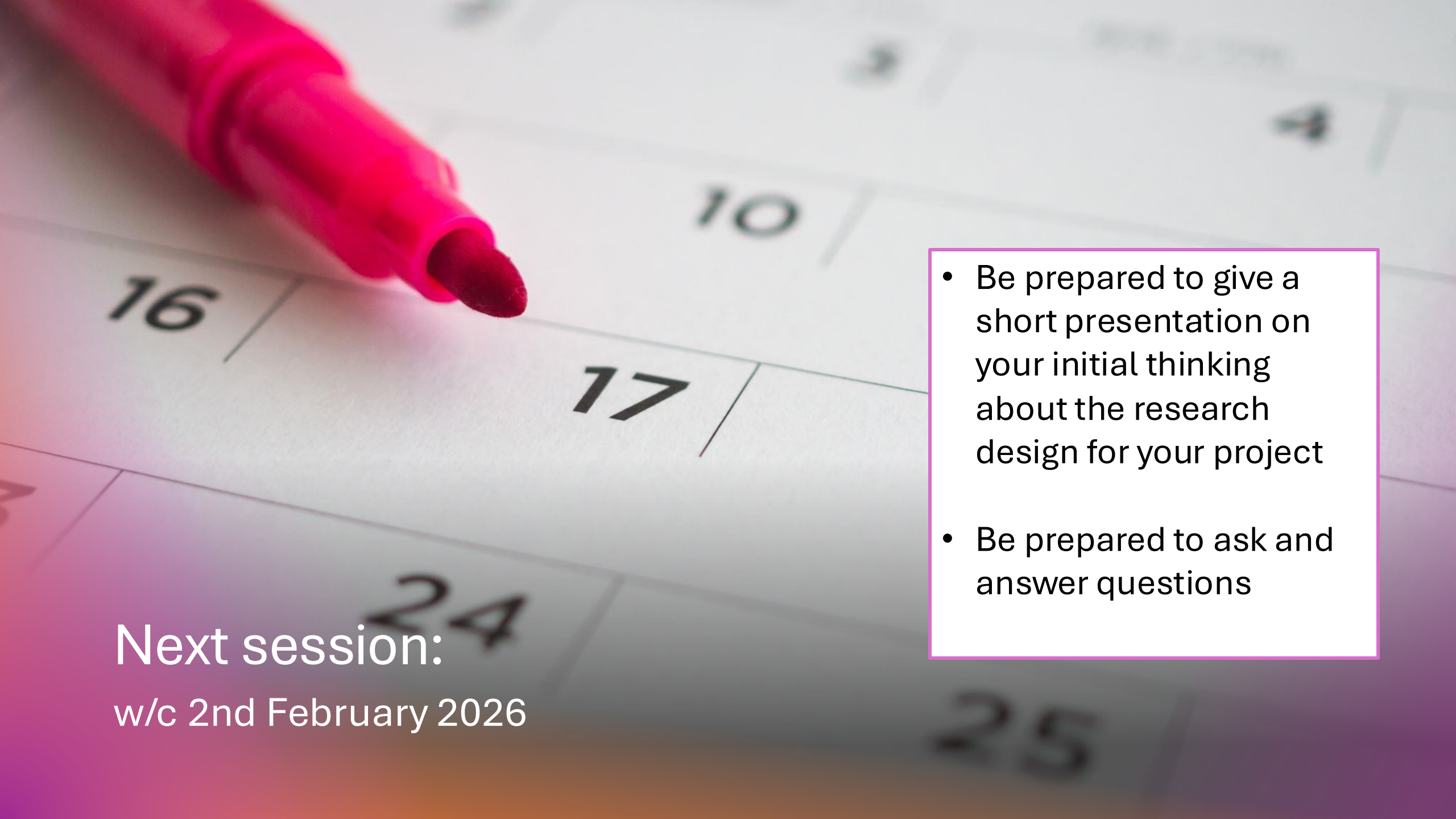
- research philosophy;
- research approach;
- research methodology choices;
- research strategy;
- time horizons;
- data collection techniques and analysis.



(Saunders et al., 2007)

The background image shows a collaborative workspace. A wooden table is covered with various documents, including a research design template with a circular diagram divided into three colored sections (blue, red, green) labeled 01, 02, and 03. Numerous colorful sticky notes (yellow, pink, green) are scattered across the documents. A person's hand is visible, placing a yellow sticky note on one of the documents. Other documents show text, images, and charts. In the background, there are office supplies like a white mug and a green folder.

Task: using the knowledge and skills developed in today's session, create and present your initial thinking about a research design for your own intended research project, including justifications for the decisions made. This should include the research problem and research question, plus your intended research philosophy, research approach and methodological approach (first 3 layers of the research onion).



- Be prepared to give a short presentation on your initial thinking about the research design for your project
- Be prepared to ask and answer questions

Next session:
w/c 2nd February 2026

QUESTIONS



References

- Thomas, G. (2025) *How to do your research project: a guide for students*. 5th edn. London: Sage
- Saunders, M., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2007) *Research Methods for Business Students*. 4th edn. Harlow: Financial Times Prentice Hall.