Glossary

**Achievement ideology** Related to *meritocratic ideology*, achievement ideology applies meritocracy to education and supposes that those who succeed in school will be rewarded with upward mobility in society.

**Action research** Research whose purpose is to create social change and to empower participant action.

**Agency** Refers to one’s capacity to make choices for himself/herself.

**Androcentric** Marked by the domination by males or masculinity.

**Behaviorism** Originally a school of psychology, the assumption that reality can be objectively observed and that a direct, stimulus-based explanation for behavior exists.

**Bricolage** An approach to research in which the methodology is a combination of methodological traditions.

**Bricoleurs** Researchers who practice *bricolage*.

**Bureaucratization** The regulation and structuring of education.

**Cartesian dualism** The Enlightenment tendency to distinguish between objective and subjective realities and to understand them as separate and unequal.

**Case study** A qualitative research study of a particular person or small group of people in comparison or contrast to their larger group, culture, or contexts.

**Catalytic validity** A determination of research quality by providing evidence that the research has led to new insight and/or action on the part of participants.

**Critical theory** Critical theory is an avenue of social inquiry that helps one to explain what is wrong with the current social reality, identify the actors to change it, and provide both clear norms for criticism and achievable practical goals for social transformation.

**Critical ontology** The critical examination of the transformation of the self as teacher-researcher, with the express purpose of conducting research that can result in social change.

**Critical pedagogy** A teaching approach that attempts to help students to question and challenge domination, and the beliefs and practices that dominate.

**Critical Praxis Research** Research conducted by educators who wish to address the lived realities of their students and schools. The practitioner-researcher develops a critical consciousness and then conducts research in ways that promote...
justice, where justice is understood to benefit (or be driven by) the research participants

**Critical race theory**  A research movement that troubles historical notions of race and power for the purposes of social change

**Cultural studies** Research that examines culture vis-à-vis critical theory or Marxism and including a variety of related critical schools (feminist, indigenous, and so on)

**Darwinian logic** The belief that the fittest survive; in education, the notion that the smartest or most hard working will succeed

**Deficit thinking** A perspective which is typically held by the dominant group that views the member in question as being wrong or “less than” simply because that member does operate under the same norms of the dominant group. Results when people perceive that a member of group xx has specific life experiences because of his/her group association; and, because of these experiences, will exhibit behaviors that result in negative life outcomes

**Dialectic** Refers to the notion that two opposing arguments can occur and influence situations and actions at the same time

**Empiricism** The belief that knowledge is attained and understood via the five senses

**Epistemology** Theory of knowledge that addresses the nature and limitations of the construction of knowledge

**Ethnography** A social science field of research with roots in anthropology; the purpose of ethnography is to study people and their culture(s)

- **Autoethnography**: An ethnographic study in which the researcher and his/her contexts are the subject of the research
- **Critical ethnography**: An research approach that applies critical theory to ethnographic studies

**Internet ethnography** An ethnographic approach to Internet research

**Microethnography** The use of video to document moments of time for ethnographic research

**Performance ethnography** An ethnographic study in which the research is represented in performance

**Public ethnography** An ethnographic study meant not for the small academic community, but for the general public; as such, its data are represented in public ways, for example, through performance

**Ethnomethodology** The ethnographic study of the rules and rituals of a group of people

**Eurocentric** Domination of Western European values, assumptions, and perceptions of reality

**Feminist research/approaches** Research that troubles Western male-dominated notions of culture, self, and education

**Feminization** A perceived shift of gender roles in a society toward the characteristically “female”
Grounded theory  A qualitative research methodology whereby the researcher gleans theory from data rather than (or in addition to) applying a previously chosen theoretical framework to data

Habitus  The attitudes, beliefs, and experiences of those in a person’s social world

Hegemony  The predominance of one way of seeing the world over another; in CPR, hegemony refers to the dominant white, male, and middle class way of researching and teaching

Historical/historiography  A research methodology based on critical examination of historic event; using primary and secondary sources, historiography attempts to revise the narrative of history

Historicity  A researcher’s historical contexts; CPR researchers seek to critically examine their historicity in order to trouble their assumptive worldviews

Identity  The way one sees or defines himself; it is network of values and beliefs that structure one’s life. Individual identity is something that may be dynamic and constantly changing as one moves through life experiences, e.g., sister to aunt and sister, wife to wife and mother.

Indigenous research/methodologies  A research movement founded by indigenous researchers seeking to give voice to their people and cultures; these researchers are particularly concerned with the ways in which indigenous people have been oppressed by colonization and globalization

Individual/collective dialectic  The notion that individuals have agency as their unique selves and at the same time reproduce and contribute to a collective or groups’ sense of agency

Instrumentalism  A pragmatic philosophy that asserts that theories are instruments for social change; theory is valued by its success at impacting society

Interview  A research methodology in which the researcher questions and listens to a participant for the purposes of data collection

Jouissance  From the French, to enjoy

Lebenswelt  The lived world of human consciousness; for CPResearchers, a motivation for research that includes the Self

Logical positivism  A philosophy that rejects any suppositions that cannot be logically proven and empirically verified; as such, it can reject theology, metaphysics, and ethics

Meritocratic ideology  The notion, particular to the “American dream,” that hard work alone can account for—and bring—reward

Me-search  A part of CPR; the notion that research can and should embrace the researcher and that an ongoing criticality of self will foster justice for others

Mixed methods research  A research approach that combines quantitative and qualitative research methodologies

Multilogicality  Multiple perspectives or ways of knowing

Narrative  A means of representation in which the research assumes a story-telling style

Ontology  The study of the nature of being and existence
Participatory action research A research methodology in which the researcher co-researches with his/her participants; together, the researcher and participants conduct research meant to create social change.

Participant observation An ethnographic methodology in which the researcher is both a participant in the culture and an observer of it.

Patriarchy The structuring of society on the basis of family units, where fathers have primary responsibility for the welfare of, and authority over, their families.

Phenomenology An ethnographic approach in which the phenomena (symbolic gestures, rites, or traditions, for example) of a culture are studied.

Positivism A theoretical philosophy which holds that the only authentic knowledge is that based on actual sense experience. A positivist approach to education looks to the past to help explain current problems and issues.

Postcolonial research/approaches A research movement focusing on the history of imperialism and its affects on marginalized, colonized cultures and people.

Postmodernism A theoretical movement that emerged from modernism, which attempts to describe a condition, or a state of being by questioning assumptions based on set traditions and clear cut moral positions.

Post-positivist A theoretical stance that amends positivism; while truth is still objective, post-positivism claims that human knowledge is based not on absolutes, but on human conjecture.

Pragmatism A philosophy which holds that theories are valuable or meaningful on the basis of their practical outcomes.

Prescription Explains a process of research that might force practitioner-researchers to follow a template or recipe for their work; such a prescriptive methodology oppresses practitioner-researchers and their participants and furthers the dominant hegemony.

Professionalization Describes the legitimization process of education as teachers’ roles in the classroom were now viewed as viable career options.

Quasi-experimental A research methodology, often used in educational research, in which experimental methods are employed but with the understanding that all variables cannot be controlled.

Queer theory A research movement founded in feminism and LGBT movements; queer theory applies critical notions of gender and sexuality to research.

Radical doubt Wolff-Michael Roth’s term for subjecting one’s own interpretation to intense scrutiny during the research process.

Radical listening The notion that social change can be furthered by a critical examination of self while listening to, and with, others.

Realism The Enlightenment tenet that truth, or reality, exists and is verifiable via the five senses.

Reciprocity The notion that research should “give back” to its participants or to society in some way.

Reductionism The Enlightenment tenet that claims that reality, even complex realities, can be intellectually analyzed.

Reflective subjectivity Evidence of how the researcher’s prior assumptions have changed as a result of the research.
Reliability  The degree to which a body of research is determined to be reliable
Replicability  The degree to which a body of research is determined to be reproducible
Scientism  The belief that scientific methodology is the best methodology for social science research
Situatedness  A researcher’s positionality within connected and even conflicting contexts, including socio-economic, political, historical, racial, and so on
Social efficacy  the idea that society as a whole should be productive and all members within that society shall lead efficacious lives
Survey  A research methodology in which the researcher polls a representative sample of participants to collect data meant to represent the entire group
Transferability  The ability of research to engage a reader in a manner unique to the reader; the “transfer” of the ideas of the research to a particular person’s context
Triangulation  A technique for establishing the validity of research via multiple validity criteria
Validity  The assessment of a research’s quality, or “truthfulness”

Construct validity: The degree to which the measurement of the research corresponds to the theoretical construct of the research
External validity: The degree to which the researcher’s observations can be compared to other research
Face validity: The validity of research via member-checking (the solicitation of participants’ responses to analysis and conclusions)
Internal validity: Internal validity verifies the degree to which the researcher’s observations accurately depict reality
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