

# Mobilising and Founding Knowledge Alliances to Combat Inequality

Wien

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## What is a knowledge alliance?

- Before 2008



- EU-project "Social Polis" (2007-10)

"This new term aims to stress the mutuality needed in the further work. Scientific knowledge is important, but so is the experience-based knowledge of stakeholders, the one not necessarily better than the other."

- EU 2020

"The Commission will also support business-academia collaborations through the creation of "Knowledge Alliances" between education and business curricula addressing innovation skills gaps. They will help universities to modernise towards inter-disciplinarity, entrepreneurship and stronger business partnerships."

- Malmö Commission (2011-13)

"By knowledge alliances, we mean equal partnerships between researchers and stakeholders such as the public sector, the voluntary sector, trade and industry, focused on combining excellence and relevance." (p 131)

- For some, KA has nothing to do with research
- Others: KA is research which doesn't deal with anything
- My opinion: Research deals with something and can build on KA



## So what does research deal with?

Housing  
Property



## Research object: Empiricism

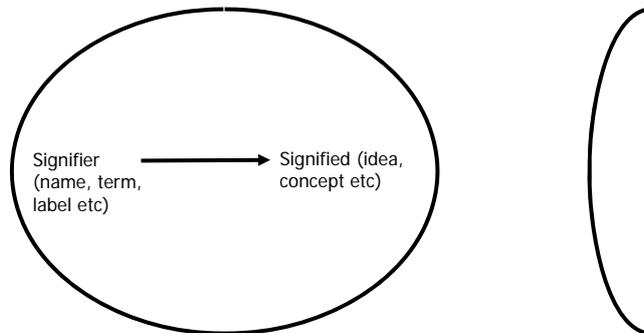
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label etc)



The observable –  
empirical objects

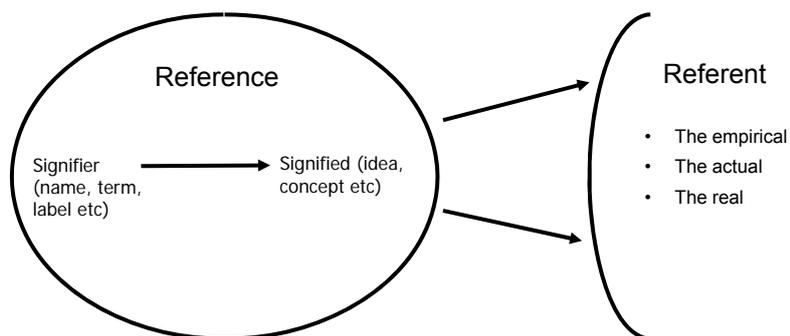
**Induction:** General conclusions, based on observation, requiring techniques

## Research object: Social constructivism



**Deduction:** Particular conclusions based on given premises, requiring logical thinking

## Research object: Critical realism



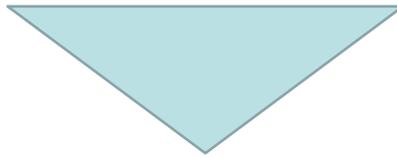
Process of production

**Abduction:** See something as something else, requiring creativity and fantasy

**Retroduction:** Contrafactual thinking, requiring ability to abstract

## Excellent research

Reference  
–  
Theoretical  
validity



Referent  
–  
Real  
validity

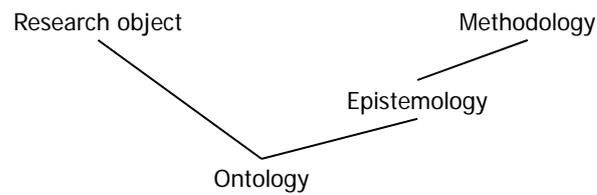
Relevance  
–  
Practical  
validity

## How will you assess my lecture?

1. With regards to what it deals with (referent)
2. With regard to how it deals with this (reference)
3. With regard to its usefulness for your own studies and/or research (relevance)

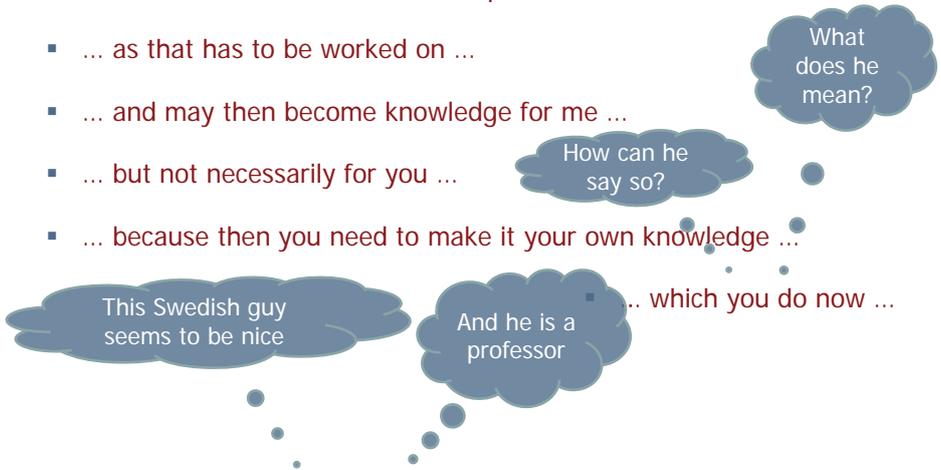
## The content of research practice

Research practice in accordance with different methods



## What is not knowledge – yet?

- Not the same as information or experience ...
- ... as that has to be worked on ...
- ... and may then become knowledge for me ...
- ... but not necessarily for you ...
- ... because then you need to make it your own knowledge ...
- ... which you do now ...
- ... but before that you need to be pleased with believing in it.



## What is knowledge?

- Knowledge deals with something ...
- ... but is always something else than what it deals with
- Knowledge has to be produced ...
- ... and recognised and/or validated as knowledge
- Knowledge builds on values and beliefs ...
- ... and can therefore always be developed
- Knowledge is something personal ...
- ... but also something collective
- Knowledge is expressed in different forms



## Have practitioners knowledge?

Reference  
–  
Theoretical  
validity

Learning to  
think and  
understand

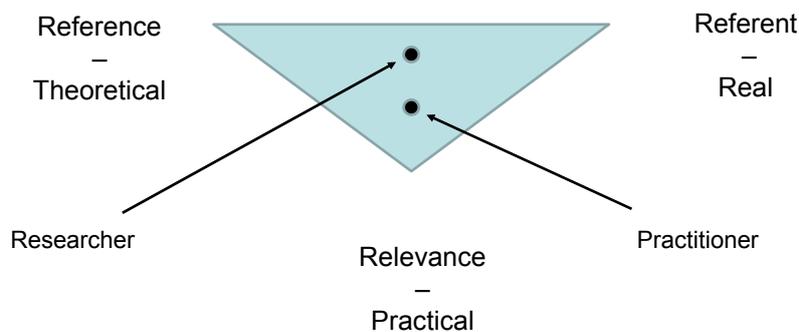
Relevance  
–  
Practical  
validity

Learning how to do and put  
thinking into practice

Referent  
–  
Real  
validity

Learning about  
different things  
and facts

## Whose got what knowledge?

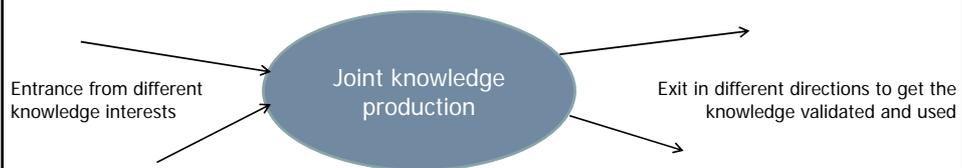


## Knowledge alliances – interactive research project

Projekt	År	EU-finans	EU-sam
Levnadsundersökningen av Malmö (1)	1995		
Levnadsundersökningen av Malmö (2)	1996		
Levnadsundersökningen av Malmö (3)	1997		
Skolintegrationsprojektet	1998-2000	EU	
Local partnerships and neighbourhood management	2000	EU	EU
ELIPSE	2002-2004	EU	EU
Framgångsalternativ	2000-2004		
Young people – from exclusion to inclusion (URBACT)	2004-2006	EU	EU
Levnadsundersökningen av Fosie	2006-2007		
SÖM Malmö: Processamordning	2008-2009	EU	
Connections	2008-2009	EU	EU
Social Polis	2008-2010	EU	EU
SÖM Fosie: Följeforskning	2009-2011	EU	
New City: Följeforskning	2010-2011	EU	
Regionalfondens storstadsinsatser	2011-2012		
Local Strategies for Active Inclusion of Young People	2011-2013	EU	EU
Citispyce	2013-2016	EU	EU

# Knowledge alliance

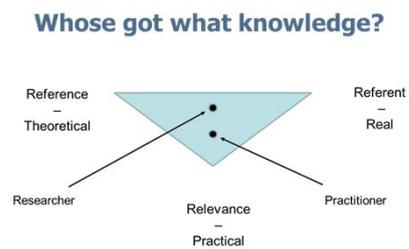
Joint development of knowledge in equal collaborations between representatives of different experience and knowledge



But: It has to be founded on an approach to knowledge which can recognise and take advantage of even other forms of knowledge than the one formalised by quantifications!

# Why knowledge alliances?

1. Accessing referents
2. Producing references
3. Achieving relevance



## 1. Accessing referents

- Getting access to the experience and knowledge of practitioners
- Accessing people
  - Getting hold of respondents
  - Communicating with respondents
  - Providing legitimacy in relations to respondents
- Getting access to information of many different kinds.
- Breaking boundaries.

## 2. Producing references

- Using the experience and knowledge of practitioners
- Shaping contexts of knowledge production favouring ...
  - ... creativity
  - ... mutual learning
  - ... a processing of experiences to knowledge
  - ... interplay between different forms of knowledge
- Communicating with respondents as part of the process
- Using forms of expression provided by practitioners.

### 3. Achieving relevance

- Practitioners represent needs of societally relevant knowledge.
- The participation of practitioners brings in important questions.
- Relating results to use.
- Preparing and mobilizing for a use of results.

### How do you assess my lecture?

#### How many have changed their mind?

1. With regards to what it deals with (referent)
2. With regard to how it deals with this (reference)
3. With regard to its usefulness for your own studies and/or research (relevance)