




Bridging the Research-Practice Gap with Systematic Methodological Pluralism

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William Blake on Methodological Pluralism:

Now I a fourfold vision see,
And a fourfold vision is given to me:
'Tis fourfold in my supreme delight
And threefold in soft Beulah's night
And twofold always. May God us keep
From single vision and Newton's sleep!
– Letter to Thomas Butts, 1802



Systematic methodological pluralism

- Danger of “single vision”: Universal fallibility of knowledge practices
- Points to need for multiple lines of evidence
 - To support practice
 - To speak to different stakeholder groups
 - To further science
- Convergent operationism (Donald Campbell)

Key Research Methods Speak to Different Stakeholders

•Randomized Clinical Trials	Trialist Scientists
•Change process research	Other Scientists
Naturalistic effectiveness research	Policy-Makers/Commissioners
Systematic case studies	Practitioners
Qualitative/narrative research (first person accounts)	Service Users

Key Research Methods Address Different Research Questions

Randomized Clinical Trials	•Test Causal models
Change process research	•Develop causal models •Test causal models
Naturalistic effectiveness research	•Establish generalizability to practice
Systematic case studies	•Describe practice •Show what is possible •Test causal claims at an individual level
Qualitative/narrative research	•Capture a sense of the lived experience of a therapy

Blake's Pluralist Epistemology Compared to Key Research Methods

<i>The Twofold Always:</i>	
1. Outer: Scientific-Objective-Observational	•Randomized Clinical Trials •Naturalistic effectiveness research
2. Inner: Experiential-Subjective-Phenomenological	Qualitative/Narrative
<i>The other forms of vision:</i>	
3. Unconscious: Interpretive-Tacit-Emergent	Change Process Research
4. Transcendent: Spiritual-Immanent-Epiphanyes	Systematic Case Studies
