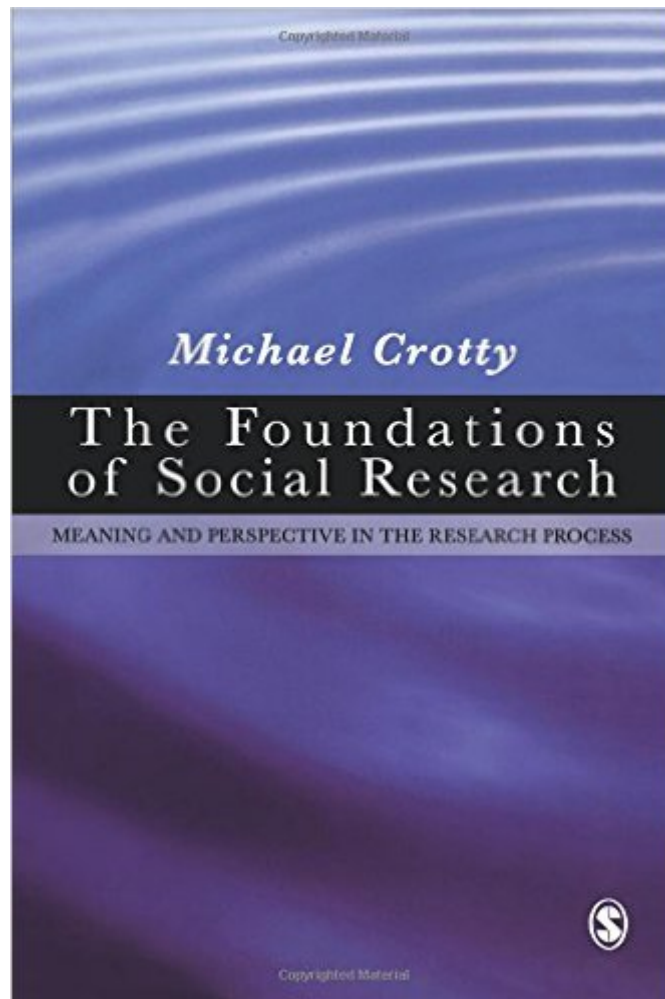


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# The Foundations Of Social Research: Meaning And Perspective In The Research Process



## Synopsis

Choosing a research method can be bewildering. How can you be sure which methodology is appropriate, or whether your chosen combination of methods is consistent with the theoretical perspective you want to take? This book links methodology and theory with great clarity and precision, showing students and researchers how to navigate the maze of conflicting terminology. The major epistemological stances and theoretical perspectives that colour and shape current social research are detailed and the author reveals the philosophical origins of these schools of inquiry and shows how various disciplines contribute to the practice of social research as it is known today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an outstanding book for people embarking on any type of research, even people using 'scientific method'. It is useful to both first time and more seasoned researchers. As a reader of the book and being relatively new to qualitative research, what stood is both the depth and clarity of thinking and the reasoning for the position held. The book provides the most useful framework for making sense of what research can be, depending on what is being sought to come out of a piece of research. The framework does not claim to be the only schema by which to make sense of the research process, in so doing it provides for ambiguity and overlaps in thinking. The schema has multiple entry points, thus no matter what your starting point, a clear position can be established. I have recommended the book to several first time research colleagues who have all found it to be really useful too. It is an easy read, but each re-read yields further useful understanding and leads

to follow up. It is not just a must read, it is a must have!

As an undergraduate psychology student, I have used this book countless times for the framework it provides of the research process in its entirety. I also appreciate its clarity, depth and simplicity whilst tackling heavy-going subject areas. Its coverage of phenomenology is brilliant. I recommend working with this text to anyone undergoing any kind of research within the social sciences.

Be warned. This is not a recipe book. This is not a catalog of techniques. It has no step-by-step guides to planning or conducting research. That's not what it is for. This is a book to help a methodologically reflective researcher survey a wide range of possible research approaches, pick a suitable position, get oriented, and start conducting intellectually coherent research. If that is something you need and value, this book will help you. It is a very clear and engaging read. As a design researcher I appreciate the method Crotty used to develop this book. He essentially employed UCD, iteratively writing, testing and improving the material prior to publishing it. I think this must have contributed to this book's success.

I got this book for a class I was taking and am very happy to add it to my library for my field of work, which is counseling. This has excellent information on research and will be beneficial to me when I begin my counseling career next year. Quick delivery too!! Thank you!!! A+++

The book was here on time, item was delivered on Sunday. I was already in a panic mode because the book was ordered a week into the semester and reading assignments were due. Receiving the book on time was a life saver. So far so good the book is great and as the semester progresses and if I have the time, may add to this review. Ernie

This was used in a class and I found it a decent complement to the instructor's explanation. However, sometimes the style explores a topic so much that it won't commit to an actual definition. A good introduction to various epistemologies and theoretical perspectives.

Crotty does a good job of covering all the major epistemological stances and theoretical underpinnings used in social research. However, parts of the book are quite inaccessible to those without a background in philosophy. A good introduction to epistemology, though not one I would assign to undergraduates.

I read this book in an introductory research class at the doctoral level. At first I found it overwhelming, but once I got used to Crotty's chronological and organized approach that layers theories, major players and their influences, I really enjoyed it. He even manages to throw in a little humor from time to time! This is a must-read for anyone new to research paradigms (or as Crotty terms them, theoretical perspectives) and provides a solid, historical background without being intimidating in language, content or length.

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