

an introduction to empirical research methods Cheat Sheet by faminconnue (faminconnue) via cheatography.com/178871/cs/38717/

main purposes of empircal researcch

(1) exploring, (2) describing and (3) explaining social phenomena at the level of aggregates, not individuals

research question

- a research program always starts with a research question. this question an be either descriptive or explanatory
- -> a research question van be answered by systematically collection data

avoiding inaccurate inquiry

the empirical circle

researchers seek to avoid inaccurate day-to-day inquiry with overge-

neralized conclusions by careful, deliberate and representative observations, avoiding illogical reasoning



the empirical circle:

- building on existing insights
- general theories generate concrete expectations: hypotheses
- hypotheses are tested by observations
- observations are generalized to build/adjust theories

empirical circle

a specified version of the empircal circle presented by Babbie

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