

# New Deadlines

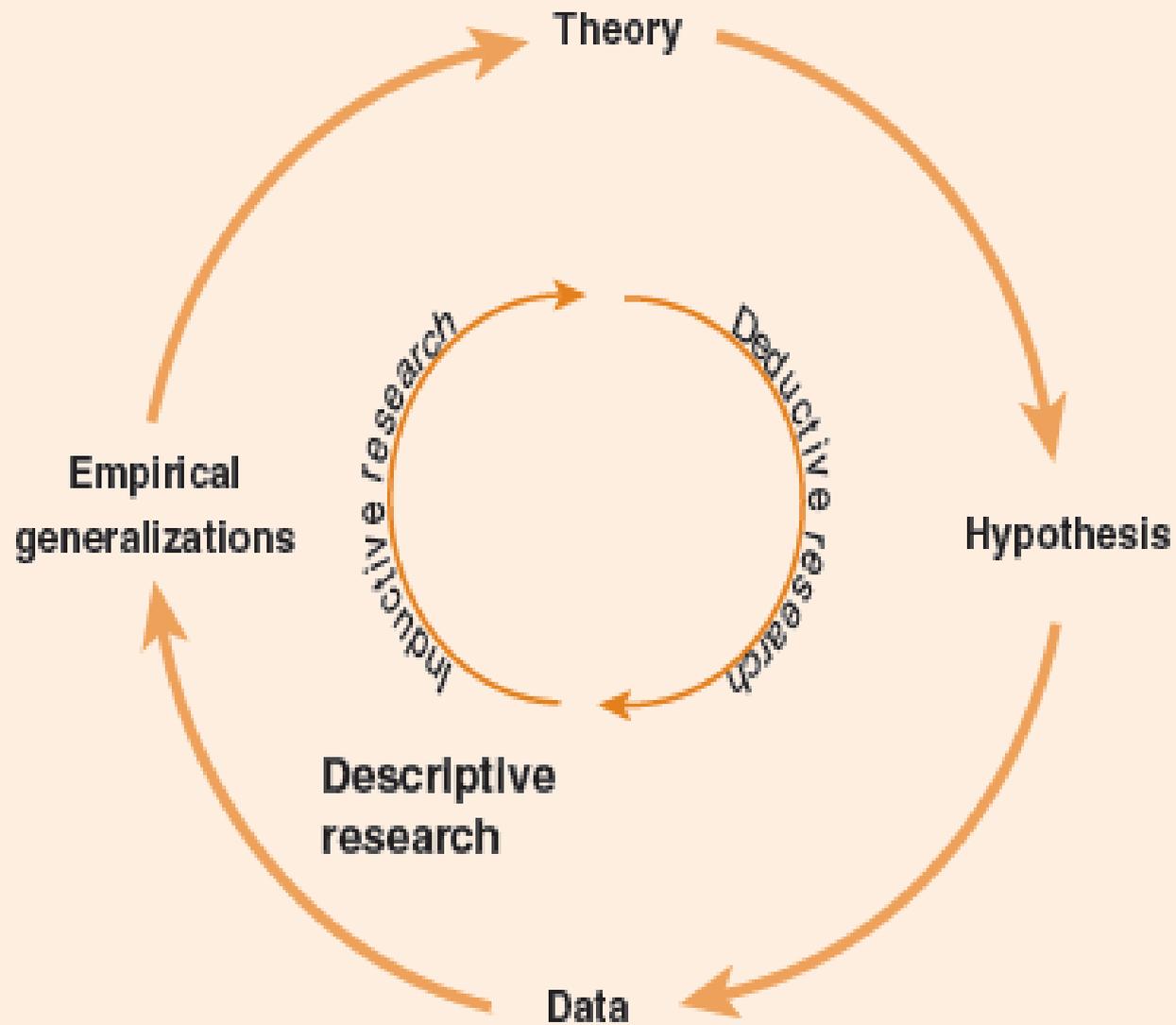
Interview Transcripts due Oct 11<sup>th</sup>

Interview Paper due Oct 21<sup>st</sup>

# Conceptualization

**EXHIBIT 2.2**

**The Research Circle**



# Concepts

Ideas

Symbols

Units of knowledge

Abstractions

## Concepts:

- Wealth
- Neighborliness
- Age
- Social Mavens

## Not Concepts:

- How much money you have
- Your neighbor
- How old someone is
- Knowing lots of people

# Levels of Abstraction

Deviance

Substance Abuse

Alcoholism

Binge Drinking

Hard Liquor

Vodka

# Unclear Concepts

Power

Society

Capitalism

Social Capital

Disfunctional

# Loaded Concepts

Broken Families

Despotism

Living Wage

People Power

Moral Decay

# Very Big Concepts

Gender

Deviance

Inequality

Poverty

Complexity

# Conceptualization

From Observations



Generalize  
commonalities.

Identify what links  
multiple concrete  
empirical cases and  
state it in an abstract  
way.

From a Theory



Specify implications.

Already abstract  
theories may lead you  
to a new way to  
categorize or  
measure the world.

# Coding

Reading through your transcripts and notes,  
looking for concepts.

# Open Coding

Read through the raw data, and let the categories, concepts, issues, etc emerge.

Exercise in inductive thinking.

Open-mindedness is essential.

Aim is to see patterns you didn't see before.

# From Open Coding, you may see:

- Recurring themes
  - challenges to group hierarchies
  - uncertainty about the rules
- Interesting ways to categorize the cases
  - Authoritative groups versus Consensus groups
  - Combat-focused groups versus Dramatic groups
- Different ways to frame the study
  - Task group dynamics

# Axial Coding

After open coding, you can take your new categories/concepts/frames and go back through your notes and apply them.

The aim here is to apply your new theoretical schemes to the data, and see how they fit.

Important mismatches, omissions, cases that don't fit, etc may lead you to alter your coding scheme, and try again...

# There's No Definitive Way to Code

Its just an exercise to help you think about the data you've collected.

Give it a try, but ultimately do what best helps you find patterns and ideas from your notes.

# Coding is an exercise in Conceptualization

She: He's more of the type that wants to sit in the house and, you know, play his game and relax, and I'm more of the type that's like, "Come on, let's go, let's go somewhere." So, that's one of our main issues right now. That's our main issue. He's more relaxed at home, and I'm more, "Let's go out, let's go out. Why won't you take me somewhere?" Something like that. So, that's...

MI: So, when you talk about it and discuss and compromise, what do those compromises usually look like?

She: Well, like I said, we go out, we go...bowling's on Mondays and we go \_\_\_\_\_ on Tuesdays.

He: But, I can't go bowling 'cause of my hand \_\_\_\_\_.