

PRAGMATIC RESEARCH

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION


- ▶ What is pragmatism
- ▶ What is pragmatic research
- ▶ Types of pragmatic research
- ▶ Approaches to pragmatic research
- ▶ Case Study



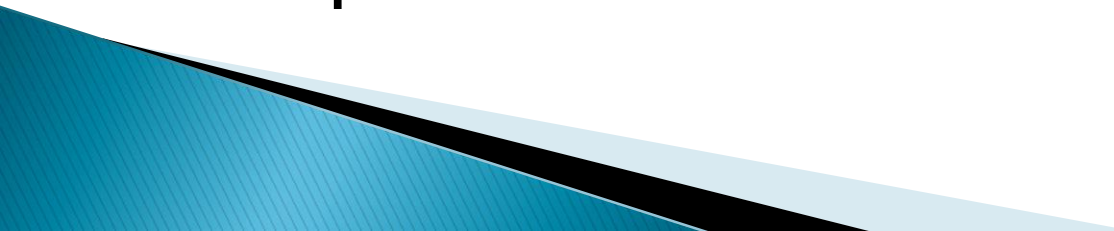
What is pragmatism Definition

- ▶ **Pragmatism** is a school of thought that believes the function of thought is tool for **prediction, action, and problem solving** and not to describe, represent, or mirror reality.
 - ▶ Pragmatism: interplay between knowledge and action to cause change.
 - ▶ Appropriate for research approaches because it allows room for innovations and interventions.
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What is pragmatism II

- It simply means practicality
 - For the pragmatist, an ideology or proposition is true if it works satisfactorily.
 - Pragmatism is guided by experiences.
 - Ideas that are not out of place
 - Ideas that are relevant to time and place
 - Methods that work
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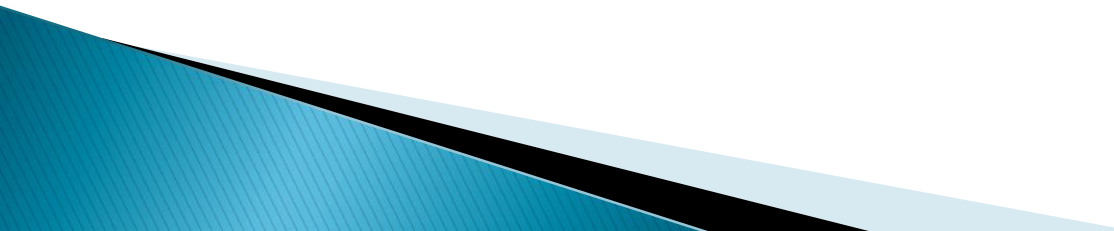
Pragmatic Research

- ▶ Pragmatic research involves using the method which appears most suitable for the type of research to be conducted.
 - ▶ Practicality against philosophy, eg simple random sampling against snowballing.
 - ▶ Freedom to use any of the methods, techniques usually used for quantitative or qualitative research.
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Pragmatic Research

- Use different techniques at the same time .
 - Eg. for commercial sex workers ? face-to-face interviews or individual interviews behind a screen or a focus group discussion.
- Findings there after can be used to construct a questionnaire to measure attitudes in a large scale sample with the aim of carrying out statistical analysis.

Types of pragmatic research

- Functional pragmatism
 - Referential pragmatism
 - Methodological pragmatism
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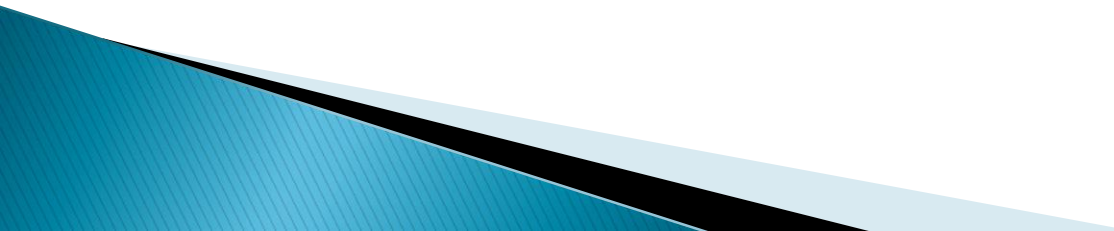
Functional pragmatism

- ▶ **Knowledge for action**
- ▶ Knowledge should be useful for action and change.
 - Knowledge: Commercial sex workers do not wish to be known
 - What actions do I take when researching on this group

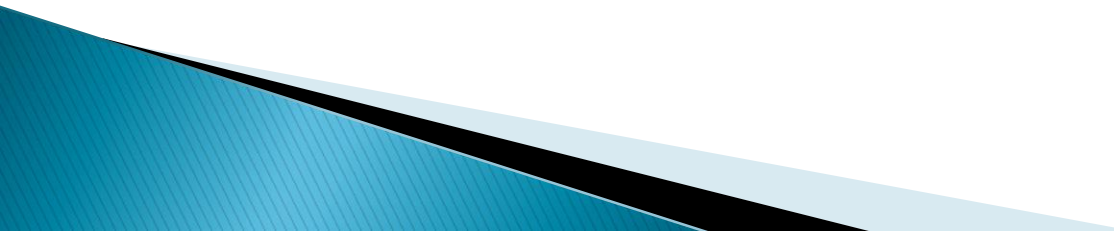
Referential pragmatism

- ▶ Knowledge about action □
- ▶ Describing the world in action-oriented ways.
- ▶ Prior Information about the outcome/results of actions

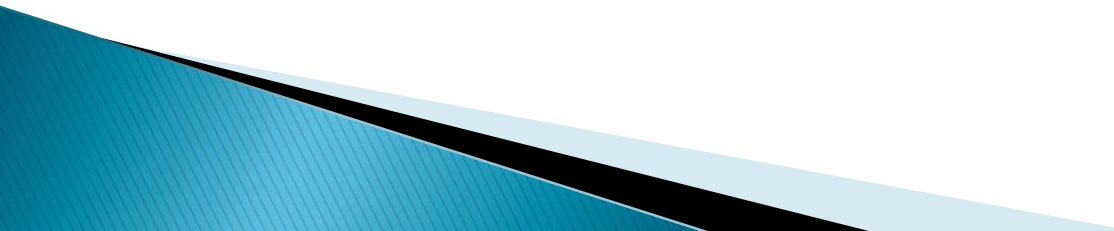
Methodological pragmatism

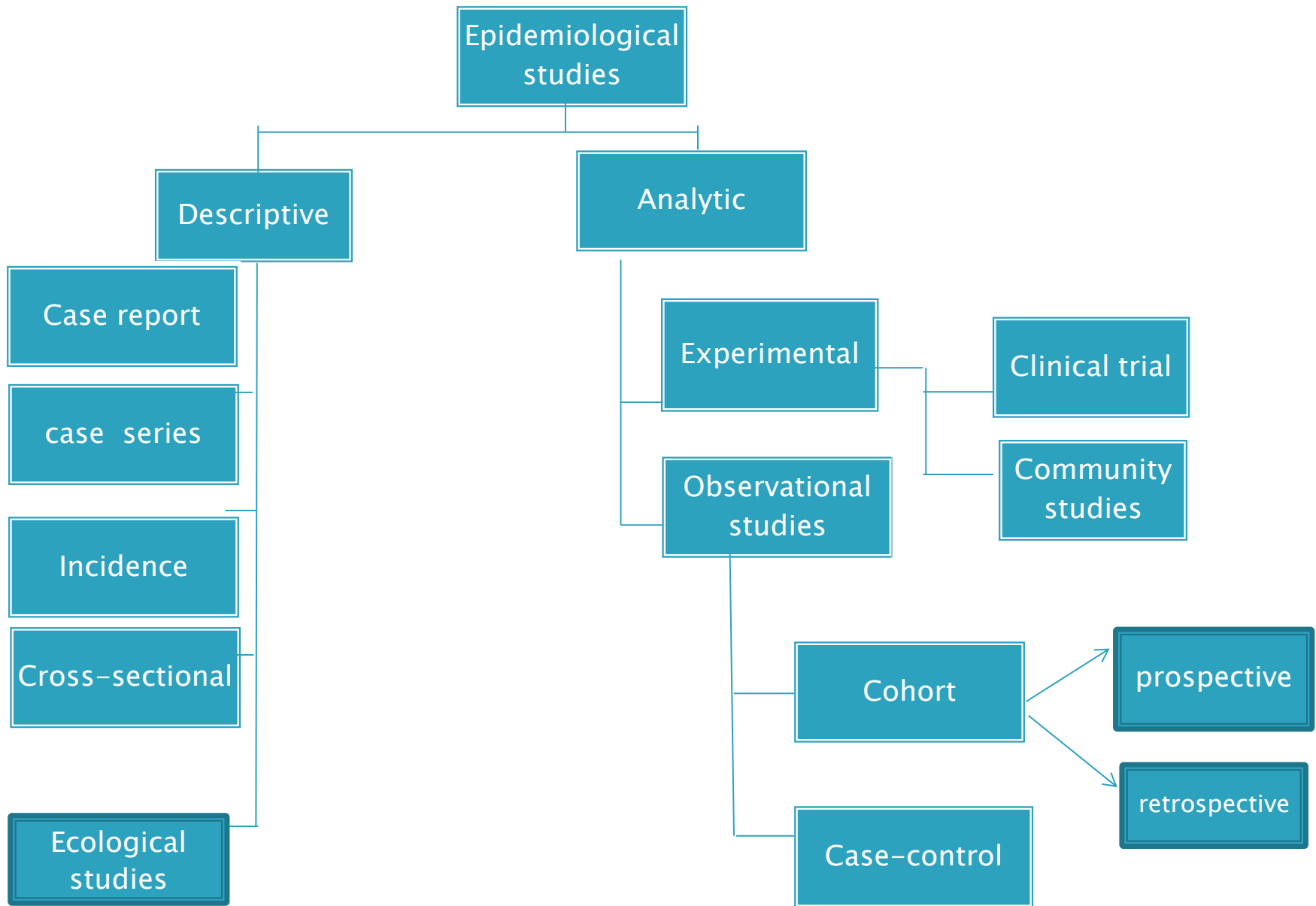
- ▶ **Knowledge through action.**
 - ▶ We learn about the world through action .
 - ▶ Knowledge is based on actions, experiences and reflections on actions.
 - ▶ Pragmatic research is therefore knowledge, experience and action driven.
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Approaches to pragmatic research

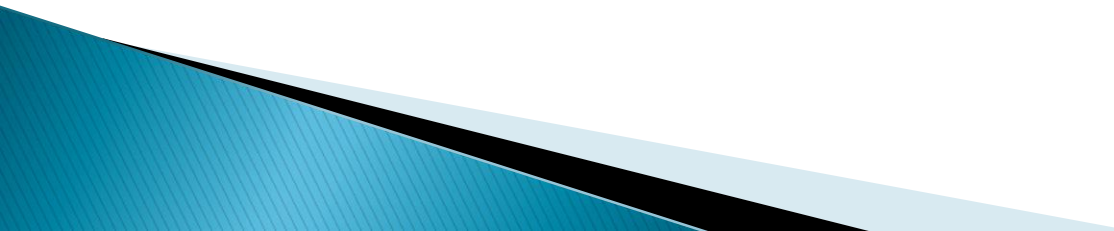
- ▶ Formulate a clear research question.
 - ▶ Research design and Data management.
 - ▶ Research team formulation
 - ▶ community sensitisation programme.
 - ▶ Consenting
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Research Question

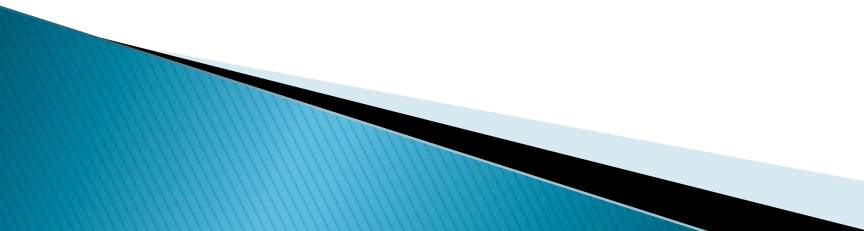
- ▶ A research question is a clear, focused, concise, complex and arguable question around which you center your research.
 - ▶ A question about an issue that you are curious about.
 - ▶ Not a question with obvious answers, a broad area of research
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Data management

- ▶ The process of controlling the information generated in a research.
 - ▶ How to keep the information safe and confidential.
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Team work

- ▶ Management (logistics, coordination, decision making)
 - ▶ Collection of data (field team, nurses, doctors,)
 - ▶ Data management (data manager)
 - ▶ PI oversees all.
 - ▶ To be discussed under ethics and GCP
 - ▶ **community sensitisation programme.**
 - ▶ **Consenting**
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CASE STUDY

- ▶ Sexual abuse in Kintampo area
 - What research question can be asked?
 - What methods and design can be applied?
 - Who will be the key research team members?
 - What do we want to know, what Knowledge do we have?
 - Different research methods, cultural practices
 - Actions: research methods to employ, qualitative? Quantitative? How do you blend?
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