Appendix

A summary of positivism, interpretivism, critical theory and motivation research (adapted version cf. Tadajewski, 2008, pp. 101, originally in Murray and Ozanne, 1991, pp. 133)

	Positivism	**Interpretivism**	**Critical Theory**	**Motivation research**
Ontological assumptions (nature of reality)	Objective; tangible; ahistorical; fragmentable divisible	Socially constructed; multiple; holistic; contextual	'Force-field' between subject and object; dynamic; historical totality	Historically and socially constructed; multiple; contextual
Nature of social being	Deterministic; reactive	Voluntaristic; proactive	Suspend judgement; emphasise human potential	Historically influenced, but voluntaristic emphasis
Axiological assumptions (overriding goal)	'Explanation' via subsumtion under general laws; prediction	'Understanding' via interpretation but not necessarily in order to confirm hypotheses	'Emancipation' via social organization that facilities reason, justice and freedom	Understanding; interpretation; understanding as prerequisite to explanation and prediction
Epistemological assumptions (knowledge generated)	Nomothetic; time-free; context-independent; value-free	Idiographic; time-bound; context-dependent; value-laden	Forward looking; imaginative; critical/unmasking; practical	Largely idiographic; time-bound; value-laden; forward-looking; critical
View of causality	Real causes exist	Multiple; simultaneous; shaping	Reflection; exposure of constraints through dialogue; reconstruction	Multiple; exposure of potential constraints