

Paradigm

My personal philosophical grounding of paradigms in research includes taking a constructivist and emancipatory approach to affect positive social change through liberation, emancipation, critiques, and taking political action. I am a social worker educator and practitioner, and I adhere to the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics. One key principal in the code is to advocate for social justice through advocacy, research, evaluation, and social action (National Association of Social Workers, 1999).

The roots of my “constructivist” paradigm stem from the constructivist ontology of considering humans to be active participants in the creation of their own reality and their individual paradigms that stem from that reality. My own personal development of becoming a constructivist came from my social work education and theoretical framework that biopsychosocial interactions and experiences influence the development of the individual, their family, and their communities (Christenson, 2006).