

<<社会工作研究方法>>

图书基本信息

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## <<社会工作研究方法>>

### 内容概要

《社会工作研究方法》是由美国得克萨斯大学奥斯汀分校社会工作学院阿伦·鲁宾（Allen Rubin）教授和加州查普曼大学社会学系艾尔·R·芭比（Earl R. Babbie）教授共同撰写的、出版多年并且经年热销的一本研究方法教科书。

对许多社会工作专业学生来说，这是一本必读书。

而在社会工作专业教师与研究者眼里，这又是一本案头必备的参考书。

对那些试图全面、系统和熟练掌握社会工作研究方法技巧的学生与专业工作者而言，《社会工作研究方法》一书具有非同凡响的参考价值。

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In this context, Abraham Kaplan (1964) distinguishes three classes of things that scientists measure. The first class is direct observables: those things we can observe rather simply and directly, like the color of an apple or the check mark made in a questionnaire. The second class is indirect observables. If someone puts a check mark beside female in our questionnaire, then we can indirectly, observe that persons gender. Minutes of agency board meetings provide indirect observations of past agency actions. Finally, constructs are theoretical creations based on observations but which themselves cannot be observed directly or indirectly. Depression, then, is an abstraction—a construct that consists of a "family of conceptions" (Kaplan, 1964:49) that includes your concepts that constitute depression, our concepts that make it up, and the conceptions of all those who have ever used the term. It cannot be observed directly or indirectly, because it doesnt exist. We made it up. All we can measure are the direct observables and indirect observables that we think the term depression implies. IQ is another example. It is constructed mathematically from observations of the answers given to a large number of questions on an IQ test. Later in this chapter well discuss sources of existing scales that measure such things as social adjustment, marital satisfaction, and family risk of child abuse. These are further examples of constructs. Conceptualization

Day-to-day communication usually occurs through a system of vague and general agreements about the use of terms. Usually, people do not understand exactly what we wish to communicate, but they get the general drift of our meaning. Conceptualization is the process through which we specify precisely what we will mean when we use particular terms. Suppose we want to find out, for example, whether women are more compassionate than men. We cant meaningfully study the question, let alone agree on the answer, without some precise working agreements about the meaning of the term compassion. They are working agreements in the sense that they allow us to work on the question. We dont need to agree or even pretend to agree that a particular specification might be worth using.

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