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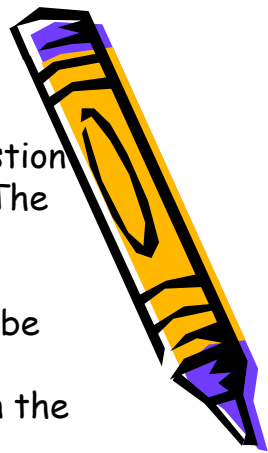
# Case studies

That inspire

'Len Arthur, UWIC, responded to the three presentations by posing a wider question of how to evaluate the emancipatory consequences of inspirational case studies. The response was placed within the context of making valid statements - warrantable truth claims - drawing upon Roy Bhaskar's critical realist distinction between the different epistemological responses required for phenomena that can be seen to be 'closed' or 'open' systems. Experimental methodologies and 'internally valid' approaches enable the exploration of the linear and one way relationship between the dependant and independent variables by establishing controls over extraneous or intervening variables are an example of a closed analysis.

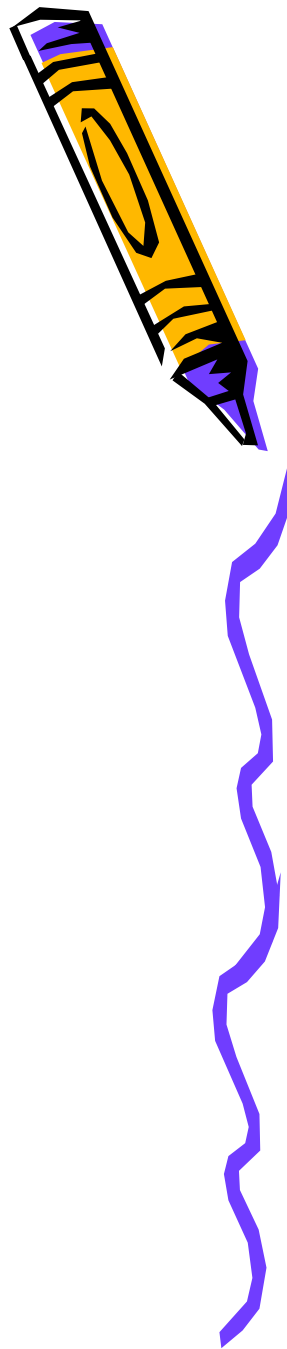
Analysis of open systems usually requires a recourse to two strategies: population validity and ecological validity. The former usually employs quantitative techniques to subject openly collected data to the demands of closed system internal validity by use of statistical analysis - association, regression etc - to make generalisations from a sample to a population. The latter, ecological validity, usually draws upon qualitative techniques such as case studies to explore the interaction - not linear and one way - between all variables, within a context and through time. Hence the data is rich and heavily contextually dependent, but as a consequence is valid and can be transferred to other contexts. Importantly for the role of inspirational case studies, transferred or abstracted in time to the future. Comment was made about drawing upon the other two forms of validity in the process of the analysis of case study data.

From this analysis it was suggested that it might be possible to talk meaningfully about the 'future in the present' and that Nic Crossley had suggested that the term 'working utopia' could be used to describe this process. It was then suggested that this context provided the means to ask the question to what extent the case studies represented the 'future in the present' and had emancipatory consequences within the context of the Katarsis discourse.'



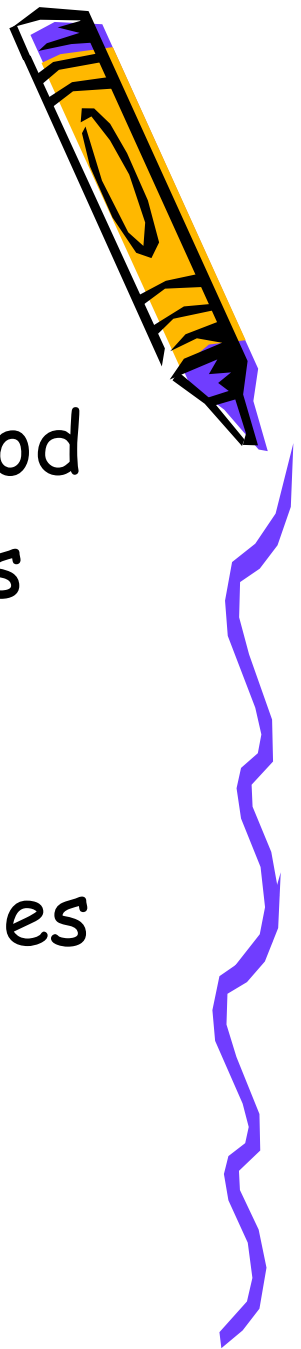
# Critical Realism

- Roy Bhaskar
- 'Closed' or 'open systems'
- Different forms of validity
- 'warrantable truth statements'
  - Internal
  - External



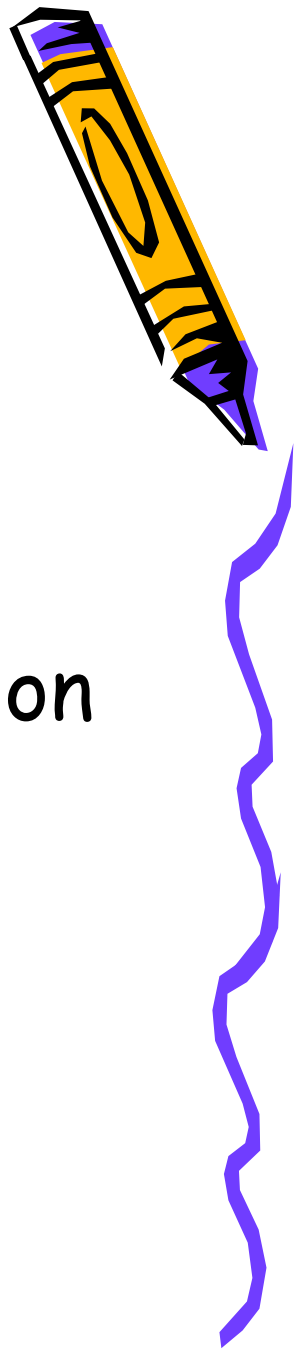
# Internal Validity

- Closed system: experimental method
- Independent / dependent variables identified
- Linear one way relationship
- Extraneous and intervening variables controlled out



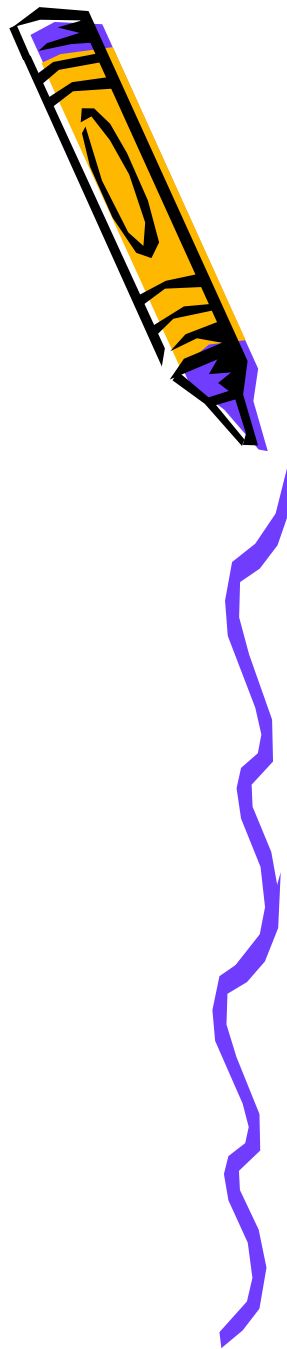
# External validity 1

- Open systems: population validity
- Quantitative methods
- Generalise from sample to population
- Use statistics - e.g. regression
- Get close as possible to internal validity



# External Validity 2

- Open systems: ecological validity
- Qualitative data in context
- Case studies
- All variables used, interactively, through time, in context
- Transfer or abstracted to other contexts



# Inspirational cases

- Ecologically valid
- Transfer or abstract to future
- 'The future in the present'
- Nic Crossley 'working utopias'
- Are case studies examples of emancipation now?

