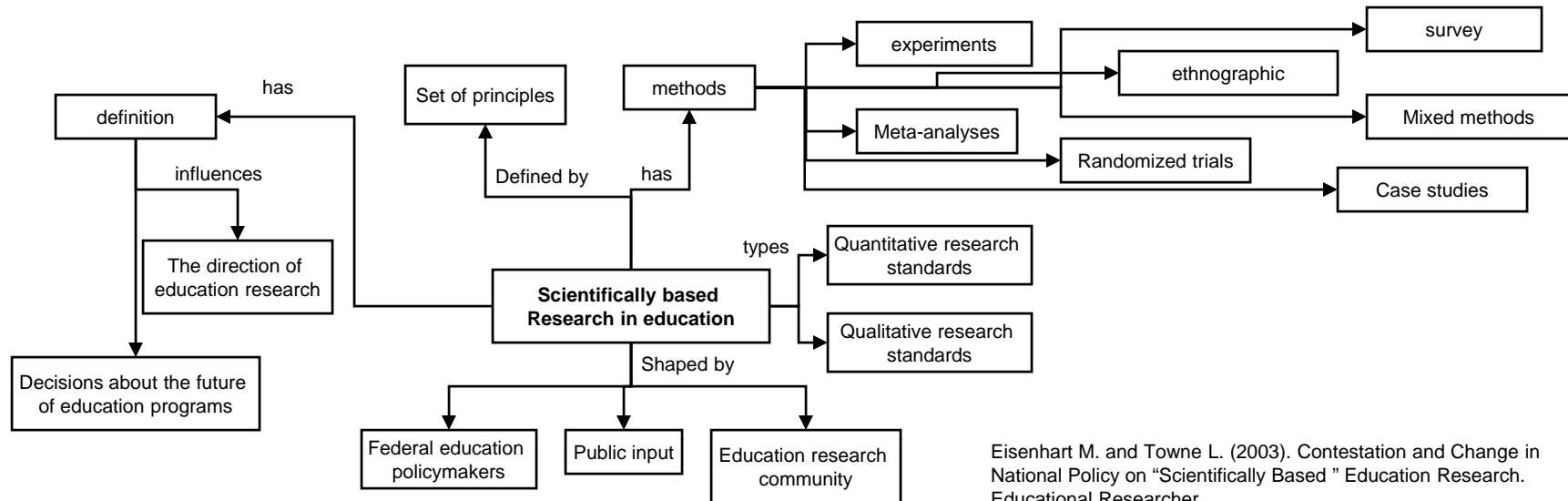


## Defining Scientifically Based Education Research



## Discussion of the article: Contestation and change in National Policy on “Scientifically Based” Education Research.

This article is about the different definitions on what is “scientifically based” education research, and how these definitions have an impact on the direction of education research and the decisions about the future of education programs.

As a qualitative researcher, the biggest concern for me is about the direction of education research. It is very impressive how the qualitative research methods have opened their way. I have come to realize that not only the philosophical and epistemological currents define the research methodologies, but also how important is policy in shaping the way studies should be conducted.

Fortunately for us, public input is still considered. The policymakers were eager not just to listen, but also to make changes more inclusive of various research designs (something that could rarely happen in other countries). The sad part of the story is that with the policies for promotion and tenure, researchers sometimes just want to “publish or perish”, and focus their research agenda on what is funded and sometimes forget what make them passionate about a certain topic.