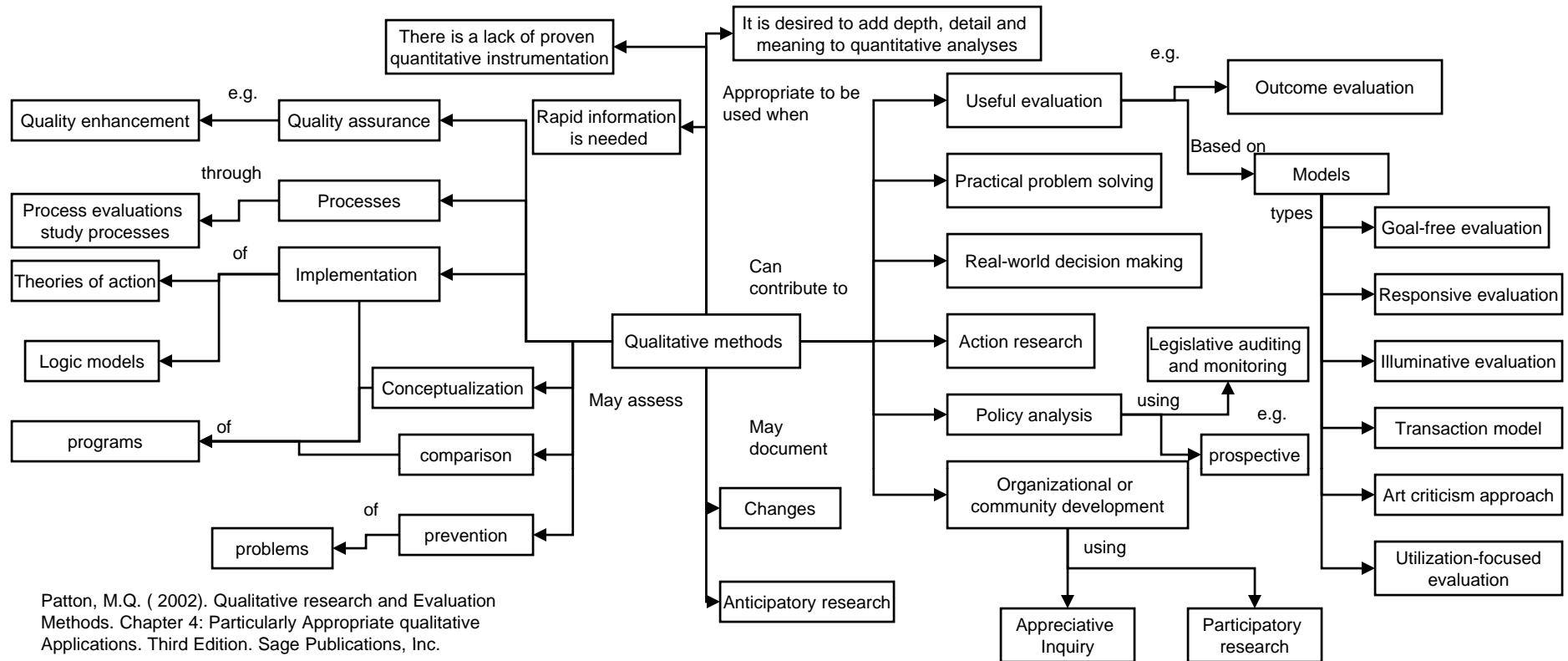


Particularly Appropriate Qualitative Applications

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Patton, M.Q. (2002). Qualitative research and Evaluation Methods. Chapter 4: Particularly Appropriate qualitative Applications. Third Edition. Sage Publications, Inc.

1. **What are some of the appropriate uses for qualitative research? Does your own research fall into one of these categories? Tell why or why not qualitative methods best suit your interests?**

Some of the appropriate uses of qualitative research may focus on quality assurance and quality enhancement. Qualitative methods can also contribute to evaluate programs, to solve problems, make decisions, conduct action research, analyze policy and inform organizational or community development.

My own research could fall on one of these categories; perhaps in the evaluation of processes. The NCN is a NSF funded project, and because of that results of its appropriate use and implementation should be reported every year. Although this is an important task that must be done in the organization which I work for, my advisors and I have decided to focus on how this project is being used for learning, what is the impact in student's conceptual knowledge, and which are their perceptions. For the lately, qualitative methods may suit my interests; in particular phenomenology.

2. **Explain why "naturalistic inquiry" is useful in evaluation studies in which may stakeholders are involved?**

Because it is important to emphasize the personalization and humanization of the evaluation process. It is useful because it gathers what audiences value and gathers expressions of worth from various individuals whose points of view differ. It is also useful because it involves a process of observation together with negotiation. The participants being observed, together with the researcher prepare the narrative, product displays, graphs, etc. It is the openness of naturalistic inquiry that permits the evaluator to be specifically sensitive to the differing perspectives of various stakeholders.

3. **Read the case report (exhibit 4.2). What was learned about the training program?**

I think that from the outcome story we can learn more about the training program. We can also learn what is the "story behind the numbers" as the title indicates. We can put a name and almost a face to the person involved in the story. Her situation was very difficult, and from the story we can learn that the program was really helpful to her in getting her studies and eventually a job. What we can learn from this description is that this particular learning program helps immigrants in overcome the cultural and barrier language. This program also supports their participants in tuition assistance, cost-of-leaving support and bus passes. The program also help their participants in getting a job and for the case of Li, even to solve problems at work.