



Triangulation

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The idea of extending research approaches by combining several methodological (or theoretical) approaches is not new in social research. We find a number of historical examples. A first boom of this idea was linked to the concept of triangulation in the 1970s, which was originally introduced in the 1950s by Campbell and Fiske (1959) and 1960s by Webb, Campbell, Schwartz, and Sechrest (1966). The discussions around this concept, particularly its perception, were rather narrow and limited. A second boom for this idea came up in the late 1980s around the concept of mixed-methods research. This again has brought some major limitations into the general discussion. Currently, a new understanding of triangulation is needed that integrates concepts like the first understanding of triangulation and the idea of mixing methods but goes beyond these discussions. In particular, triangulation makes an important contribution to studying issues around social justice topics, the accessibility and barriers in using social welfare or support institutions, and the like.