EMPIRIC KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

Conceptualizing and Structuring

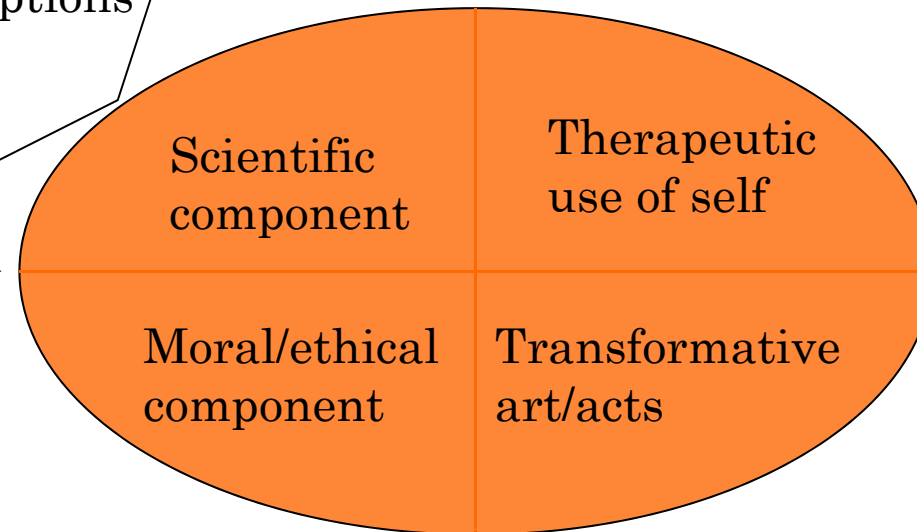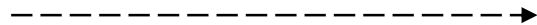**Description and critical reflection**

Validating and confirming

What is this?
How does it work?

Conceptualizing
Structuring

Empirics

Theories,
Formal
Descriptions

Confirmation,
Validation

| Scientific component | Therapeutic use of self |
| Moral/ethical component | Transformative art/acts |

Conceptualizing and structuring empirical phenomena to create formal expressions of empiric knowledge and to develop scientific competence

Validating and confirmation of formal expressions of empiric knowledge and to develop scientific competence

DEFINITION OF THEORY

- A creative and rigorous structuring of ideas that projects a tentative, purposeful, and systematic view of phenomena

CONCEPTUALIZING AND STRUCTURING EMPIRIC PHENOMENA

- Two process
  - Creating conceptual meaning
    - To produce a tentative definitions of a concept and a set of tentative criteria for determining whether the concept is useful in a particular situation
    - Concept analysis
  - Structuring and contextualinzing theory
    - Identifying and defining the concept
    - Identifying assumptions
    - Clarifying the context within which the theory is placed (describes the circumstance within which the theoretical relationship are expected to be empirically relevant)
    - Designing relationship statements

DESCRIPTION OF EMPIRIC THEORY
WHAT IS THIS? HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- Purpose
  - If a theory is purposeful, then a purpose can be found
- Concepts
  - If a theory represents a structuring of ideas, the ideas will be in the form of concepts that are expressed in language.
- Definitions
  - If the concepts of a theory are integrated systematically, their meaning will be conveyed in definition.
- Relationships :descriptive, explanatory, predictive
- Structure:
- Assumptions
  - If a theory is tentative, assumptions form the underlying "taken for granted" truth on which the theory was developed, leaving open possible theoretical interpretations that would come from different sets of assumption.

CRITICAL REFLECTION

- How clear is this theory ?
- Hoe simple is this theory ?
- How general is this theory ?
- How accessible is this theory ?
- How important is this theory ?

- (Page 246-246, Box 8-2)

VALIDATING AND CONFIRMATION

- Identifying empiric indicators for the concepts
- Empirically grounding emerging relationships
- Validating relationships through empiric methods

Issues encountered
- Theory-linked research vs. isolated research
  - Inappropriate use of theories
  - Theories as barriers
  - Ethical consideration
- Theory-generating research
- Theory-validating research

REASONS FOR NOT BE SUPPORTED BY DEDUCTIVE TESTING

- The meaning of the concepts is not adequately created
- The relationship statement is not adequately structured
- The empiric indicators for the concept are not adequate
- The definitions are inadequate or inconsistent