Qualitative Transparency Deliberations

hosted by the Social Science Research Institute at Duke University on behalf of the APSA Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research
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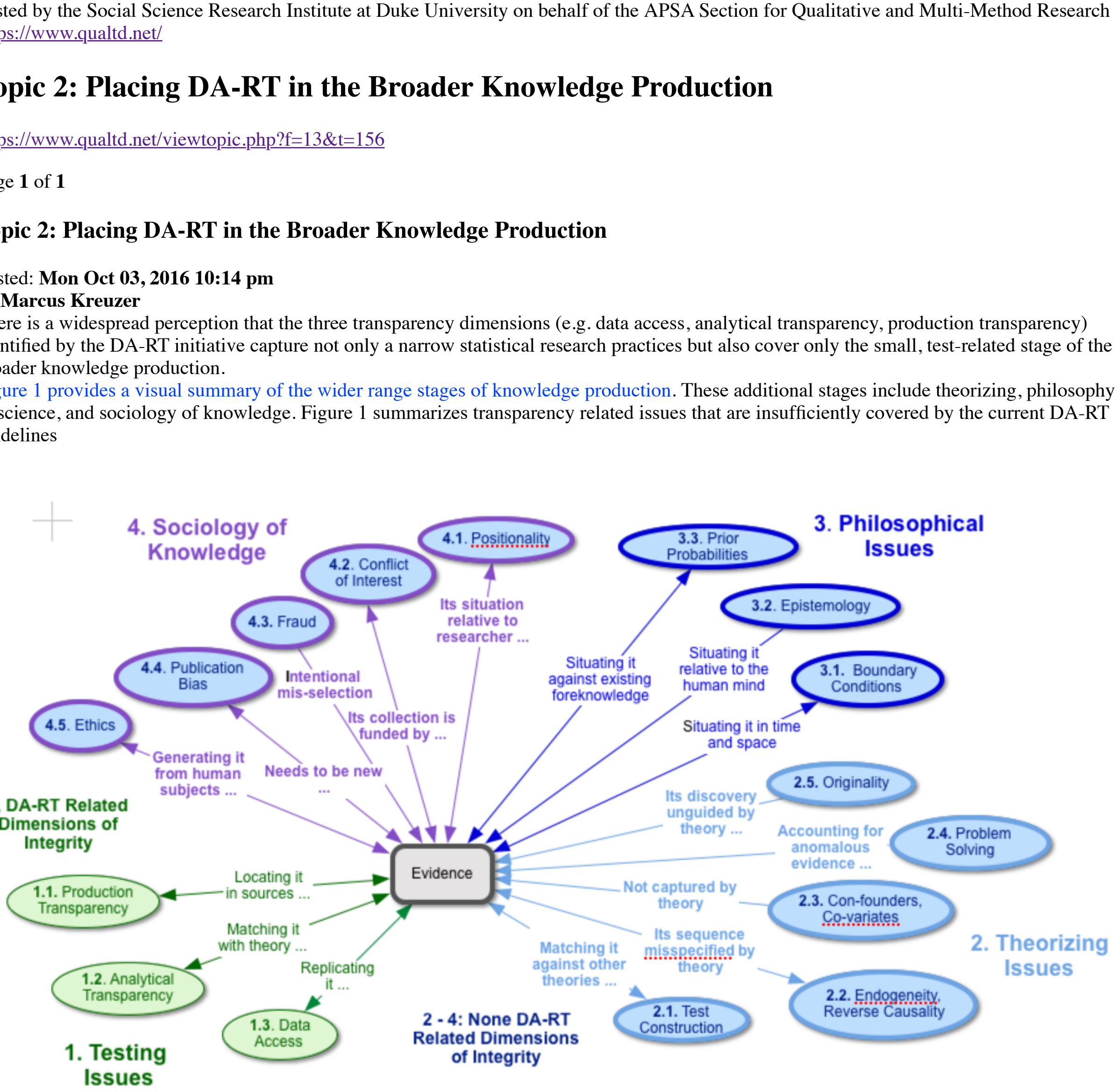
Topic 2: Placing DA-RT in the Broader Knowledge Production

https://www.qualtd.net/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=156

Topic 2: Placing DA-RT in the Broader Knowledge Production

Posted: **Mon Oct 03, 2016 10:14 pm**
by **Marcus Kreuzer**
There is a widespread perception that the three transparency dimensions (e.g. data access, analytical transparency, production transparency) identified by the DA-RT initiative capture not only a narrow statistical research practices but also cover only the small, test-related stage of the broader knowledge production.
Figure 1 provides a visual summary of the wider range stages of knowledge production. These additional stages include theorizing, philosophy of science, and sociology of knowledge. Figure 1 summarizes transparency related issues that are insufficiently covered by the current DA-RT guidelines



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The working group encourages public discussion of the following questions related to this more expansive view of research integrity:
[1] What evaluative criteria are scholars employing to assure the transparency regarding how theorizing, philosophical assumptions, and sociology of knowledge affect the broader integrity of their research?
[2] How do such criteria overlap or differ from those spelled out by DA-RT?
[3] What would be the costs or benefits of incorporating such considerations in DA-RT?

Re: Topic 2: Placing DA-RT in the Broader Knowledge Production

Posted: **Sat Dec 17, 2016 4:36 pm**
by **Murillo**

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The issues raised here are very important because DA-RT as a part of a model of how to do social sciences with the goal of advancing scholars' careers does not necessarily coincide with the goal of advancing relevant knowledge all the time. The hurdles imposed by DA-RT, especially for young scholars seeking jobs and tenure, and the short periods discussed to make data available, in addition to the high discretion afforded to editors rather than reviewers in deciding which data the scholar has to provide, may generate unintended consequences for the general integrity of research. Researchers should make the right choice in terms of the evidence they gather, both protecting their subjects and seeking data that may not be easy to gather. The difficulties involved should be rewarded by academia rather than discouraged and thus the process of data sharing should respect the time of publication of those researchers and subsidized it if it involves larger costs than other types of research (for instance, having repositories paying for digitalization of qualitative data rather than imposing the cost on the scholar). If these kinds of issues are not considered we are pushing scholars away from integrity at an earlier stage when they choose the topics and they decide on data collection, which are crucial if we want to produce relevant research. This issues are similar to publication bias. That is, the need to find novelty to publish hinders research that may illuminate the scope conditions of existing theories and the relevance of prior discoveries to understand current problems. Although publication bias is not the same as transparency and is defined by another aspect of integrity both can generate similar incentives that should be considered in defining the terms in which the new rules will be imposed and the level of discretion assigned to editors, which is already very high. The inter-subjective enterprise of producing social science should include more than a single authority and the continuous inter-subjective consideration of what is integrity seems to me should involve different groups of scholars who are more familiar with the research topic, as well as those coming for different academic context. Thus, I think that another important practice from the review process, at least in comparative, is to include reviewers from the academic region where the research takes place. Those reviewers should be less influenced by local networks and more likely to pay attention to the context of research thus, in line with the sociology of knowledge incentives presented in the graph, are likely to diversify the voices judging the process and inform about diverse aspects shaping the integrity and transparency of the process.

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