

# ASPA PhD Summit

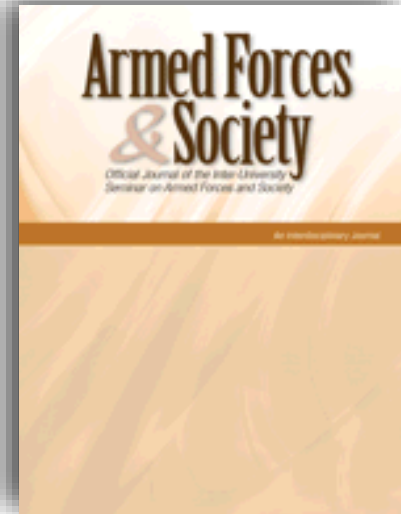
## Getting Published & Finding Coherence



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Editor – in – Chief  
*Armed Forces & Society*

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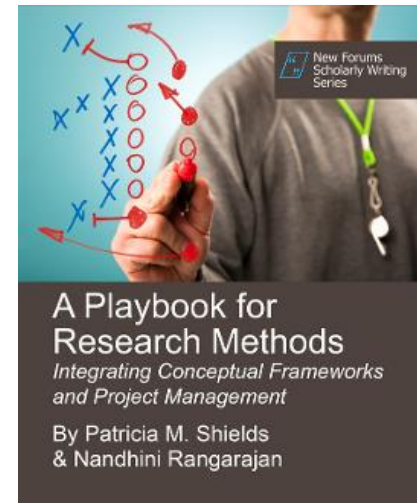
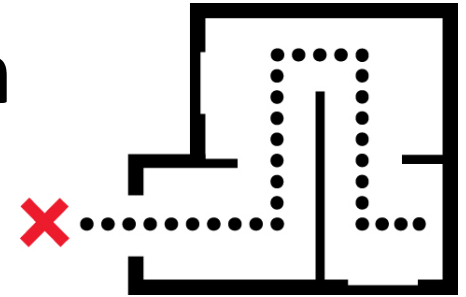


International  
Interdisciplinary

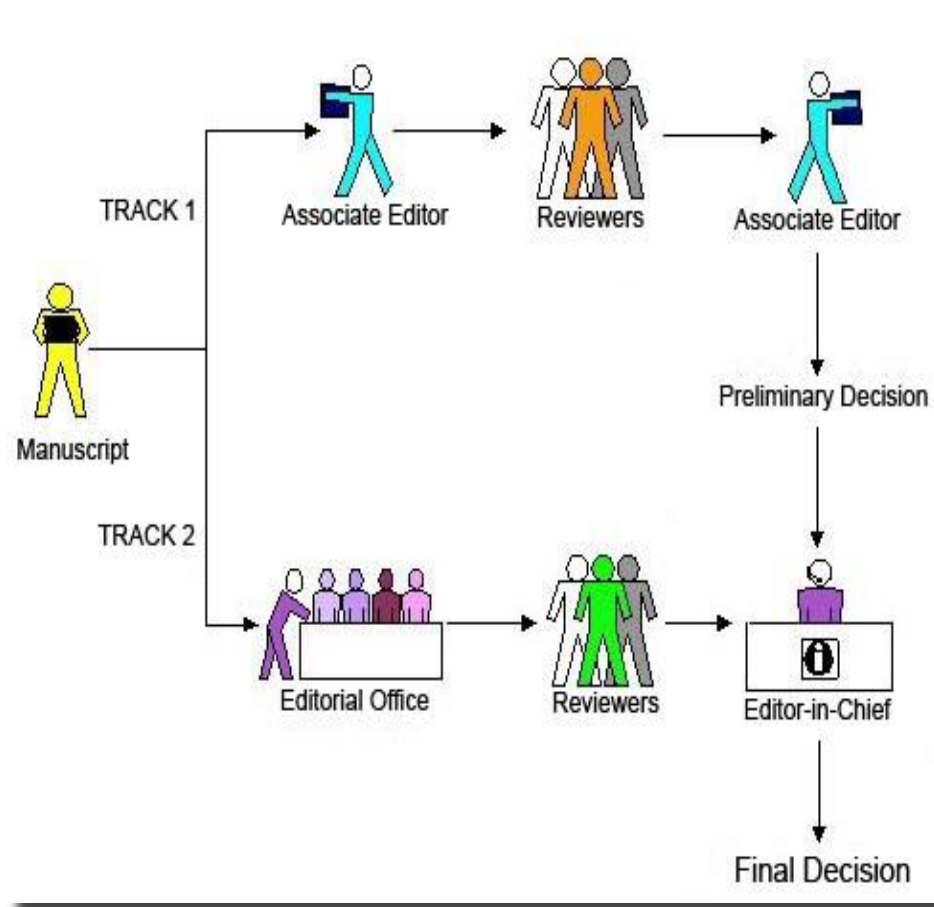
~ 40 years

# Plan for Presentation

- Stages in manuscript processing
  - Editor's Perspective
  - Tips for Article Acceptance
  - Article Coherence
- Tips from the Playbook



# Editorial Process (submission - publication)



# Editorial Process

- Manuscript arrives

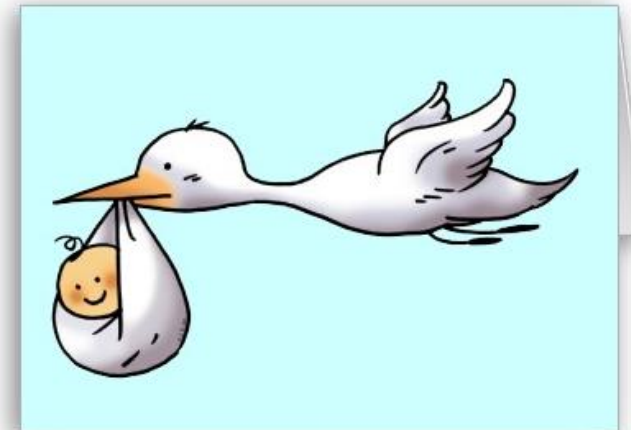
Scholar One

- Editor's Review

Editor's Reject 40% (Handout – criteria)

- Find Reviewers

- look at bibliography
- Reviewer Data base
- Key words



# Editorial Process (cont.)

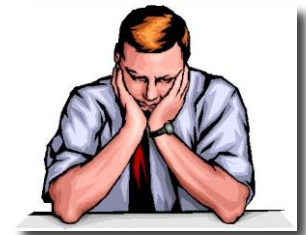
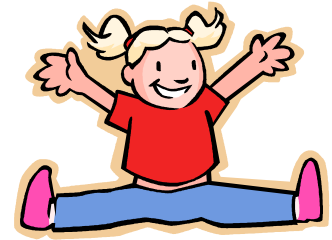
- Send out for review  
2-4 reviewers
- Reviews in  
Send reminders
- Reviewers assessment  
Accept, Reject, Revise and Resubmit



# Editorial Process

## First Round Decision

- Accept    Very rare (1 in 50)
- Reject    (1 in 2)
- Revise and Resubmit (most common)



### Editor's Comment

- How to weigh reviewers' comments  
(Top scholar, graduate student)
- Find additional problems



Persistence

# Editorial Process (cont.)

- Revise and resubmit comments sent to author
- Revised Manuscript and letter with explanation arrives - Re-review Re-review (could be 2 - 4 rounds)?
- Decision - Accept/Reject
- If Accept publisher takes over

Like a sports team - it often takes practice and more practice to achieve the goal.



- Copyediting by Sage
- Author queries – Clarification
- [On line first](#)
- Assigned to an Issue





# Tips for publishing



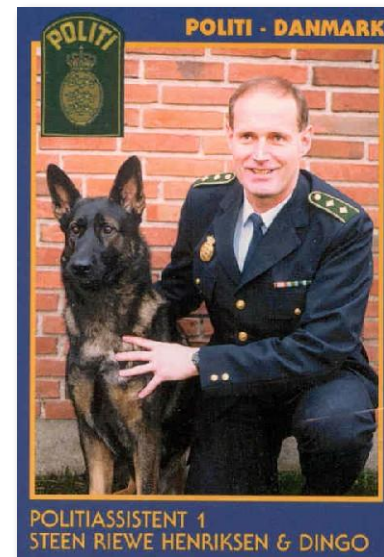
Editors  
Perspective



Scholars perspective

# Editor as Coach and Cop

Improve the manuscript



Make sure poor material gets caught

# Tips Article Acceptance (any journal)

- Introduction
- Easy to Skim



# Tips Article Acceptance

- good fit for journal
- Cite the journal



# Tips for Article Acceptance



- Adequate sample size
- State Hypotheses in testable form

# Additional Tips



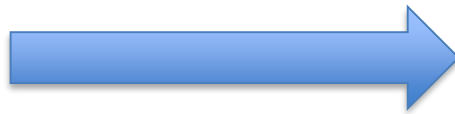
- Share your work widely – present at conferences
- Develop cadre of research colleagues  
Co-author(s)
- Don't take it personally (key test how you deal with first rejection)
- Try again – use comments from reviewers

# Two Personal Rules for Successful Scholarship

1. The only good dissertation is a completed dissertation.



2. Better in a library than a file cabinet.



# Discoverability

## Optimizing Article For Search Engines



Change in the way knowledge is being generated and distributed.

In 20 years most knowledge will not be trapped in paper.

Correlation between downloads and citations





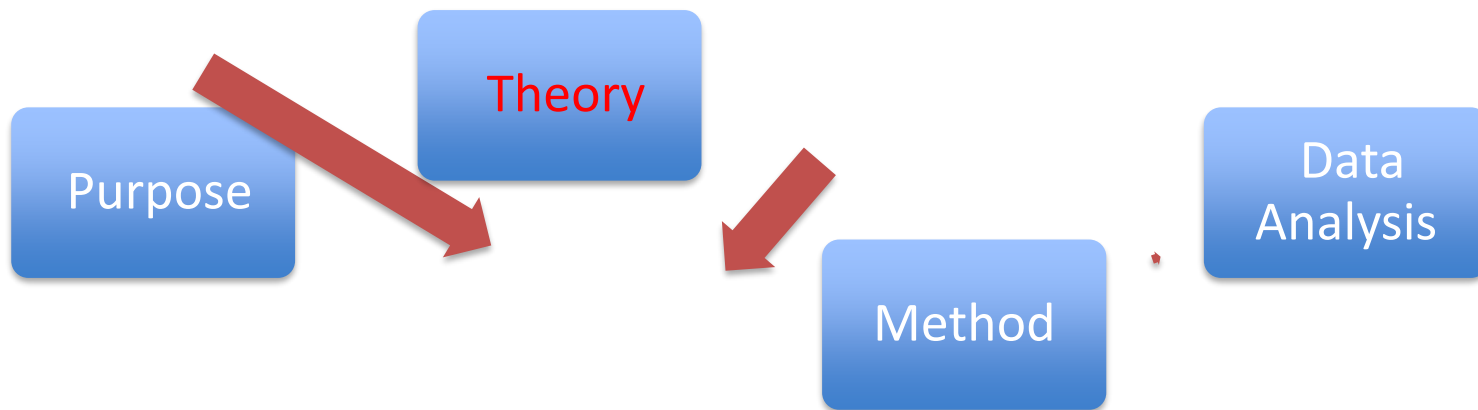
## Tips from



- Pay extra attention to writing the **Abstract**
- Get the title right
- Choose key words carefully

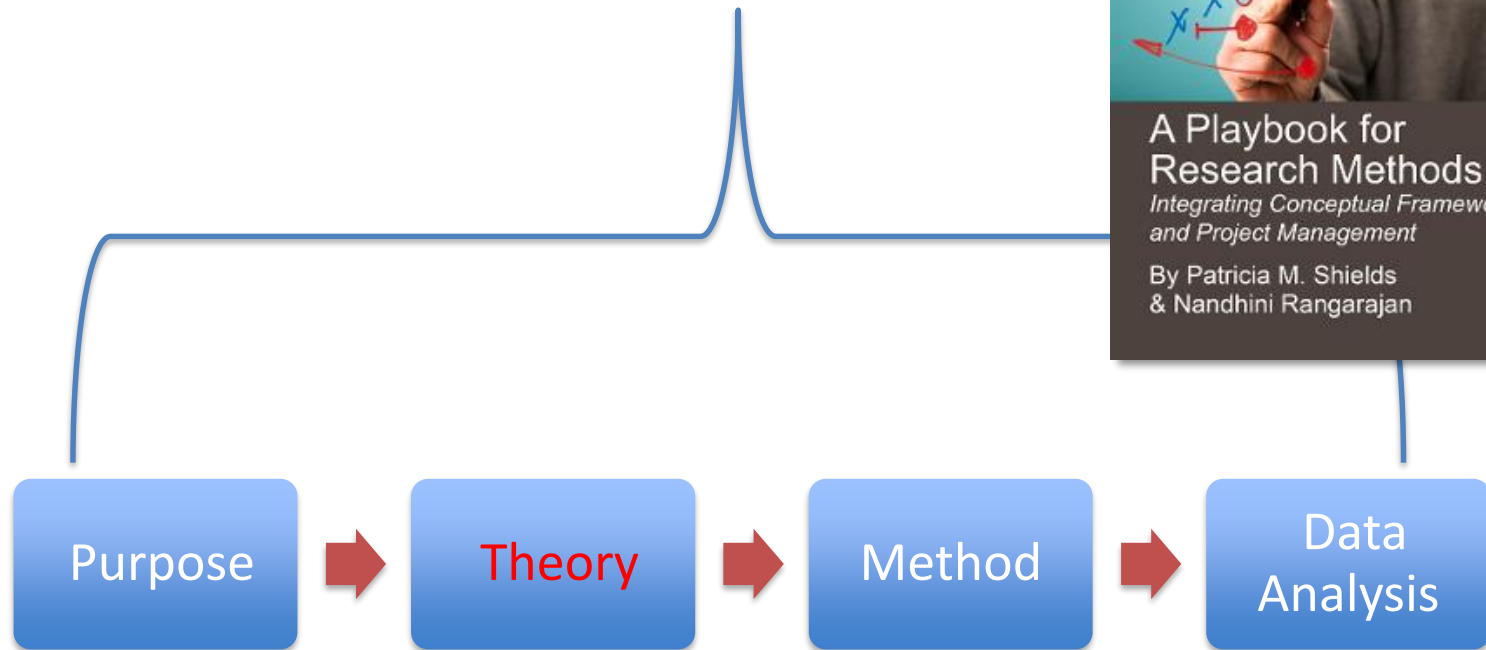


# Articles Rejected for Lack of coherence



Parts just not connected!

# Steps in Research Process



Conceptual  
Frameworks

Role of Theory  
Connections between Steps



Notebook



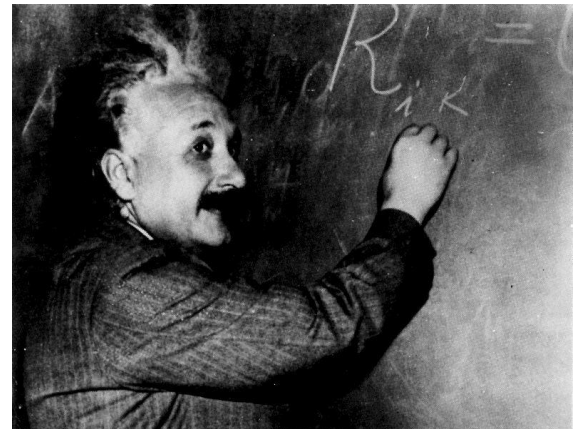
## Inspired Football Player Students





# What is Theory?

“Theory can be defined as a coherent group of general propositions or as a verified **explanation** accounting for known facts or phenomena (theory of relativity or gravity) Theories are used to **explain** reality or make **predictions.**” Johnson, 2010, p. 17



# Theories apply at different Policy Scales

Meta theory  
Micro-economics

## Where does your dissertation fit in this scale?

Labor  
economics

Hypotheses for  
study

What factors explain wages  
in local labor market?

Most fit here



# Football Scale

- Rules
- Game Strategy
- Individual play

Moral and Science considerations

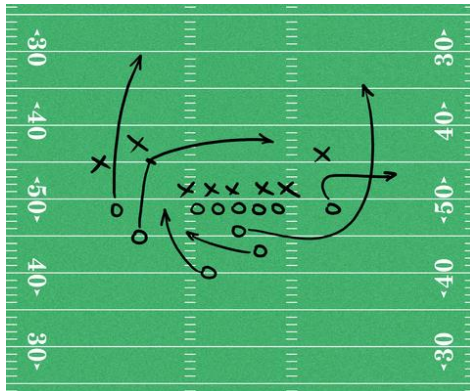
Distinct and  
interdependent







Plays are mental images/ideas that organize what players do on the ground in a particular situation

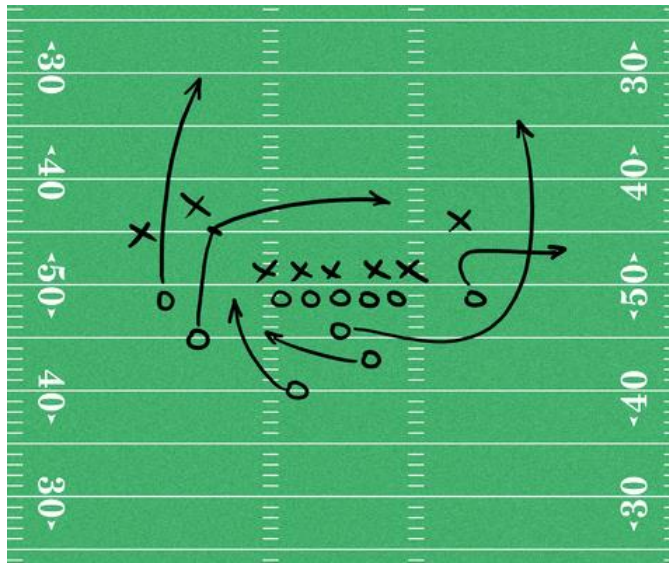


Plays do not make sense without a **purpose**

Plays are a kind of close to the ground Theory

Like individual study





**purpose**

Long or  
short  
yardage

**Play**

ideas that  
organize  
player  
actions

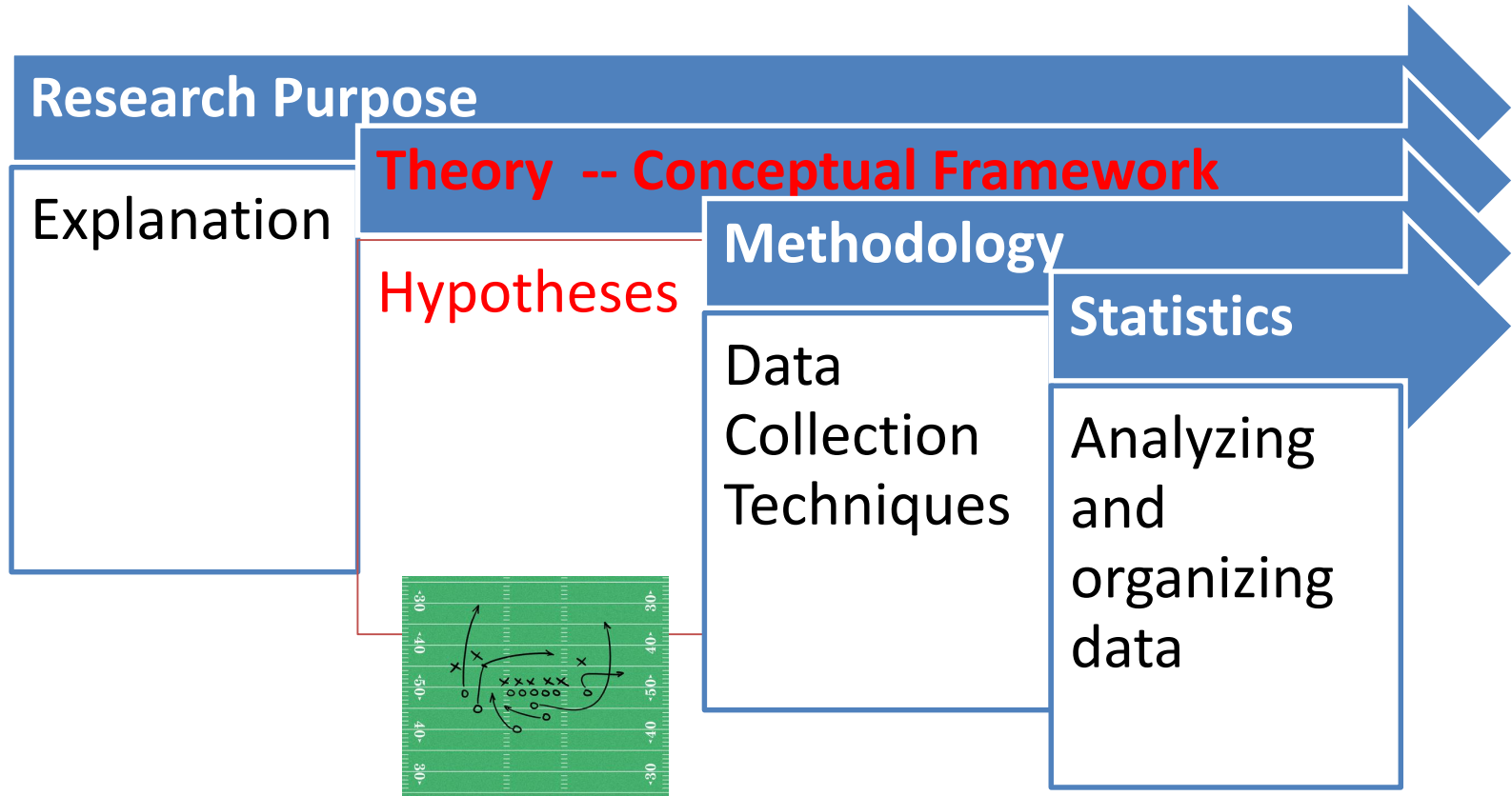
**How men move on ground**

**Movement  
of players  
on ground**

**Results**

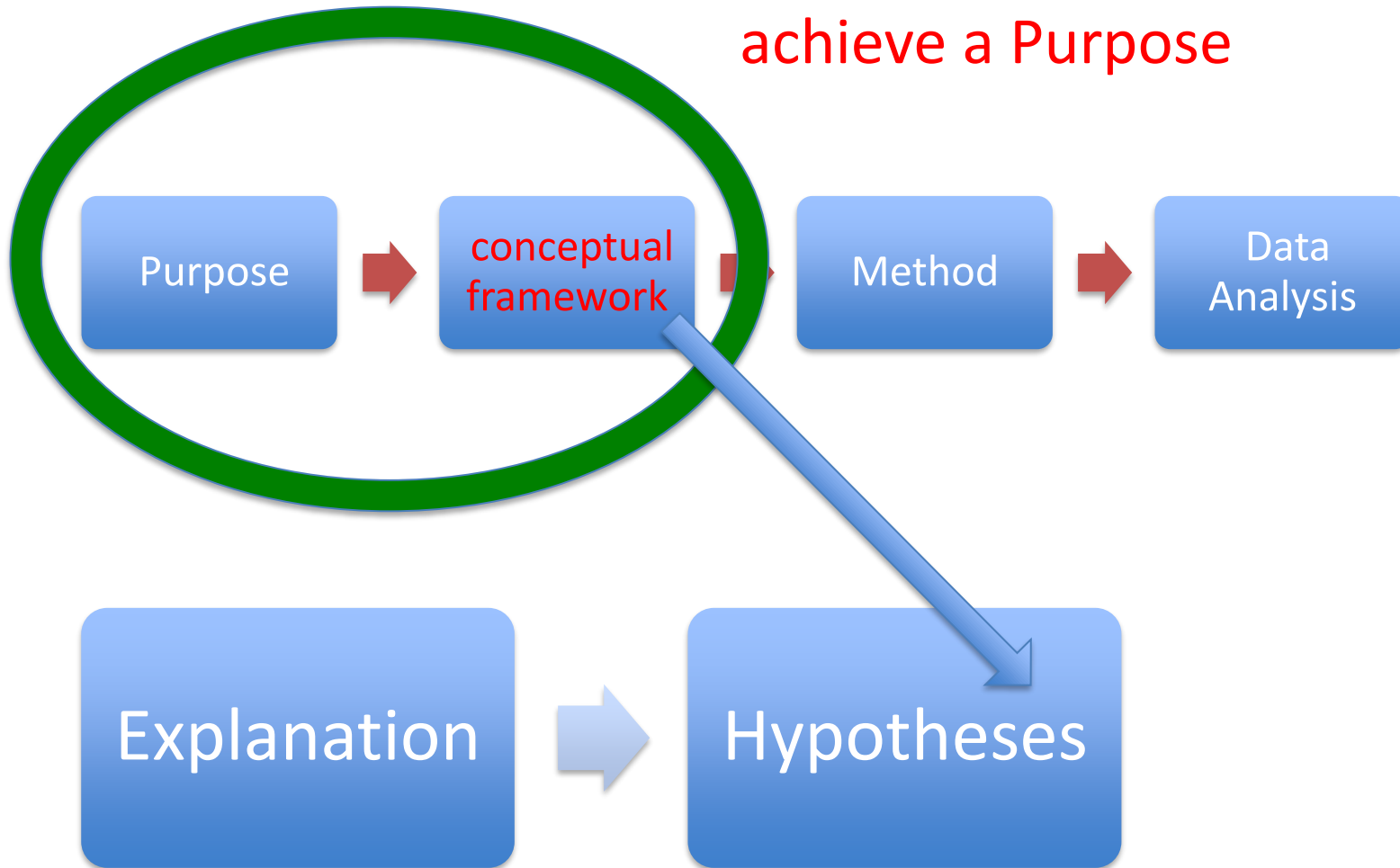
Actual  
yardage  
gained

# Research Process Taking into account Traditional Research notions of Theory



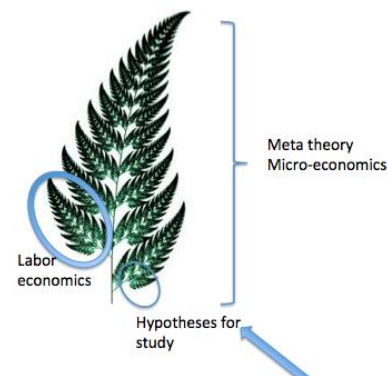
Conceptual framework – close to the data theory

# Conceptual Framework: Organization of ideas to achieve a Purpose



Most common

# What Explains the level of Wages?



## Explanation

What explains wages?

## Hypotheses

Education

Intelligence

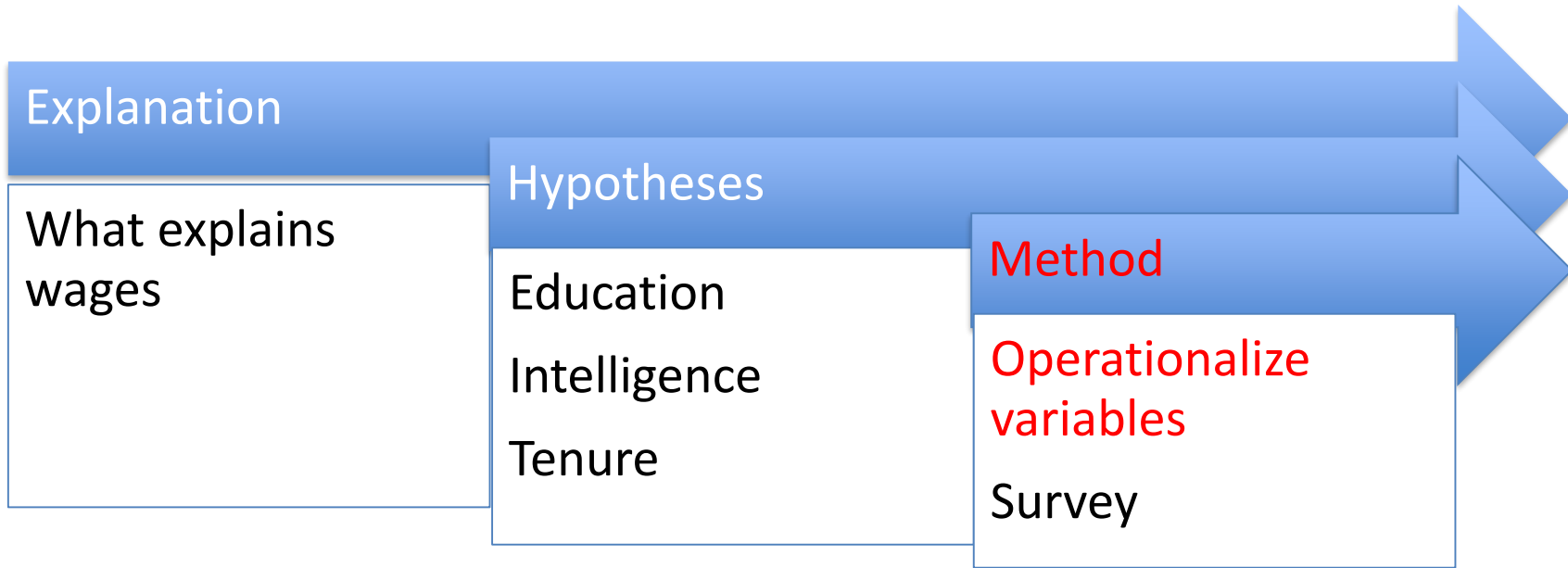
Job tenure

Theory

Conceptual Framework

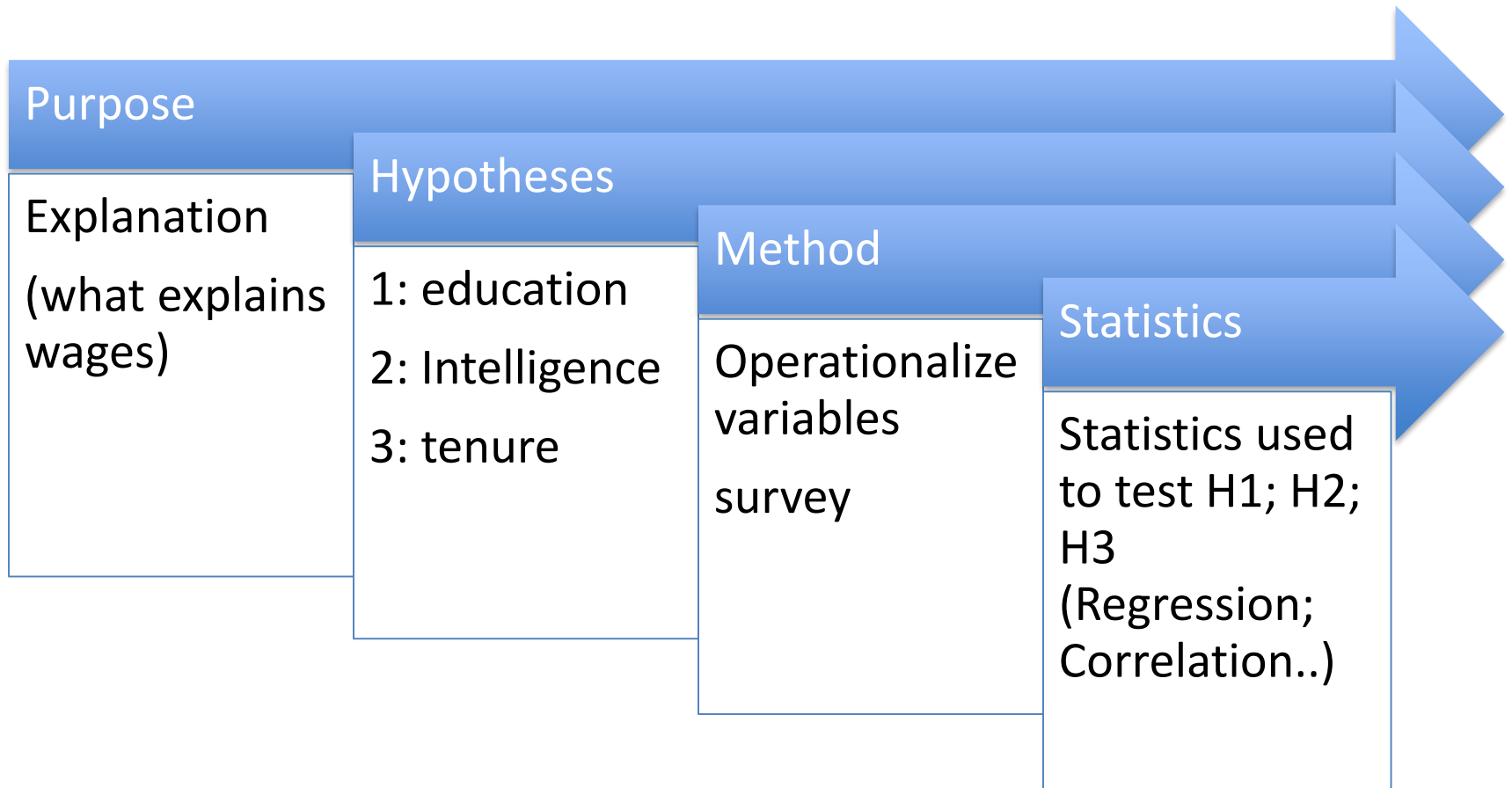
- H1: As education increases wages increase
- H2: As intelligence increases wages increase
- H3: As job tenure increases wages increase





**Dependent variable** – Wages (Hourly rate of pay)

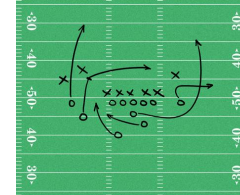
**Independent variables** Education (years of school completed) H1  
Intelligence (IQ score) H2  
Tenure (months on the job) H3





# PA has many types of purposes -- and Frameworks

Many Plays



## Purposes

- Explanation
- Description
- Exploration
- Decision making
- Gauging

## Conceptual Frameworks

- Hypotheses
- Categories
- Working Hypotheses
- Models of operations research
- Practical Ideal Type

Purpose	Conceptual framework	Method	Data Analysis
Explanation	Hypotheses	Survey Existing data Experimental design	Multivariate statistics Regression, t-tests, correlation, ...
Description	Categories	Survey Content Analysis	Descriptive Statistics Mean, median, mode
Exploration	Working Hypotheses	Mostly Qualitative Case study, interviews, focus groups, direct observation...	Evidence analyzed by working Hypotheses
Decision Making	Models of operations research	Cost benefit analysis, cost effectiveness analysis, linear programming .....	Depends on the technique used
Gauging	Practical ideal type	Mostly Qualitative Case study, interviews, focus groups, direct observation...	Evidence analyzed by criteria of practical ideal type



Purpose	Conceptual framework	Method	Data Analysis
Explanation	Hypotheses	Survey Existing data Experimental design	Multivariate statistics Regression, t-tests, correlation, ...
Description	Categories	Survey Content Analysis	Descriptive Statistics Mean, median, mode
Exploration	Working Hypotheses	Mostly Qualitative Case study, interviews, focus groups, direct observation...	Anything goes  Evidence analyzed by working Hypotheses
Decision Making	Models of operations research	Cost benefit analysis, cost effectiveness analysis, linear programming .....	Depends on the technique used
Gauging	Practical ideal type	Mostly Qualitative Case study, interviews, focus groups, direct observation...	Evidence analyzed by practical ideal type category



**Traditional  
Methods Texts**

# Examples of Quality Student Research



- Award Winning (national, regional)
- Cited (Journals, Books, United Nations Reports, Dissertations, Policy documents)
- Widely Downloaded

# Handouts

What explains home fires?

College graduates attitudes  
Toward high stakes testing.



# Where do Conceptual Frameworks come from??

- Literature Review Chapter
- Creativity Chapter

Like coach that **creates** Plays

Learn Middle school plays before big time.

