Overview: main research question and sub-questions

Description

1 What are the features of phenomenon a1?
2 What are the features of phenomenon a2?
3 What are the features of phenomenon a3?
So what can we say about the features of phenomenon a?

Comparison

1 What are the features of phenomenon a?
2 What are the features of phenomenon b?
(What are the features of phenomenon c, d, et cetera?)
3 What are the similarities between a and b?
(What are the similarities between a and c, b and c, d, etcetera?)
4 What are the differences between a and b?
(What are the differences between a and c, b and c, d, etcetera?)
So what can we say about the extent to which the phenomena are alike?

Definition

1 What are the features of the class? (When do we call something …?)
2 How do you weigh these features?
3 What are the features of phenomenon a?
4 What are the similarities between the class and phenomenon a?
5 What are the differences between the class and phenomenon a?
So what can we say about the extent to which the phenomenon fits this class?

Evaluation

1 What are the features of the norm? (When do you call something …?)
2 How do you weigh these features?
3 What are the features of phenomenon a?
4 What are the similarities between the norm and phenomenon a?
5 What are the differences between the norm and phenomenon a?
So what can we say about the value of the phenomenon?

Explanation based on theory

1 What does the theory hold on the features of causes (x) and effects (y)?
2 What are the features of the circumstances x' and the phenomenon y'?
3 What aspects of x' and y' match with what the theory holds?
4 What aspects of x' and y' differ with what the theory holds?

So what can we say about x' as possible cause of y'?

Empirically based explanation

1 What are the features of x and y at time 1?
2 What are the features of x and y at time 2?
3 What are the similarities and differences between x t1 and y t1?
4 What are the similarities and differences between x t2 and y t2?
5 To what extent do differences and similarities between x t1 ↔ y t1 and x t2 ↔ y t2 correlate?
6 Are there any other possible causes?
7 Are there plausible reasons to assume a causal relationship?

So what can we say about the extent to which x can cause y?

Prediction based on theory

1 What does the theory hold on the features of causes (x) and effects (y)?
2 What are the features of the circumstances x' and the phenomenon y'?
3 What aspects of x' and y' match with what the theory holds?
4 What aspects of x' and y' differ from what the theory holds?

So what can we say about y' as possible effect of x'?

Empirically based prediction

1 What are the features of situation x at this moment (t1)?
2 What are the features of situation x and effect y at previous moments (t2, t3, et cetera)?
3 What are the similarities and differences between x t1 and x t2, x t3, et cetera?
4 What are the similarities and differences between y t2 and y t3, y t4, et cetera?
5 To what extent do differences and similarities between x t2 ↔ y t2 and x t3 ↔ y t3 correlate?
6 Is it possible that other factors are at play?
7 Are there plausible reasons to assume a causal relationship?

So what can we say about the probability of y in the future?

Design

Problem: evaluation of the situation

1 What should x be/What should x be like?
2 What is x/What is x like?
3 In what aspects does x differ from the preferred state?

Explanation

4 What causes the problem?

Solution

5 What can be done to ensure that x is more like x should be?

Evaluation of the solution

6 What criteria must be involved – and in what way – in the assessment of the proposed solution? What are the features of the norm?
7 In what aspects does the proposed solution match the norm?
8 In what aspects does the proposed solution differ from the norm?

So what can we say about the way to tackle x?