


# Research Design

Professor Lawrence Jun Zhang, PhD  
 lj.zhang@auckland.ac.nz  
 Faculty of Education & Social Work  
 The University of Auckland  
 New Zealand




- **What is research?**
- **What Is Teacher Research?**



**Compare your finding with that of another group**

**Compose a short definition of “research”**

### *What is research?*

Compiling research data

- Compare your finding with that of another group
- Compose a short definition of “research”

### *What is research?*

**Analysing data (sorting)**

### **Research Traditions**

- a systematic process of inquiry consisting of three elements or components:
  - a question, problem, or hypothesis (Dick Allwright talks about ‘a puzzle’)
  - data
  - analysis and interpretation of data.

(Nunan, 1993, p. 3)

### Research Traditions

Many ways of classifying research

- One of the most common distinctions:
  - qualitative and
  - quantitative research

### Research Traditions

**Where did these traditions come from?**

### Research Traditions

Quantitative – natural sciences to study natural phenomena (labs). External truths which can be proved or disproved.

Qualitative – the complexity of social interactions in daily life and the meanings that participants give to these.

### Research Traditions

Different approaches can complement and supplement each other.

“If occasionally more precise quantification has a contribution to make, it would be foolish to deny ourselves this resource on ideological grounds.”

Richards, 2008, p, 11

### Research Methodologies and Methods

Methodology – overall approach

Method – data collection methods

### Research Methodologies and Methods

Methodology – overall approach:

- Case study,
- action research,
- narrative inquiry,
- ethnography,
- discourse analysis.

**Research Methodologies  
and Methods**

Method – data collection methods:

- Questionnaires,
- structured or
- unstructured interviews,
- focus groups,
- field studies,
- structured or unstructured observations,
- journals,
- tests.