

Table 2.1 Relationship Between Descriptive Research, Relational Research, and Experimental Research

| Type of Research | Focus | General Claims | Typical Methods |
|------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Descriptive | Describe a situation or a set of events | X is happening | Observations, field studies, focus groups, interviews |
| Relational | Identify relations between multiple variables | X is related to Y | Observations, field studies, surveys |
| Experimental | Identify causes of a situation or a set of events | X is responsible for Y | Controlled experiments |