CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS

LIS 570

RESEARCH ASSESSMENT & DESIGN

AGENDA

- **Read handout**
- **Class Updates**
  - **Assignments**
  - **Groups**
  - **Ombudsperson**
- **Brief Exercise**
- **Break**
- **Lecture 2**
- **Break**
- **Class discussion on Ontology**

- **Search for "Activating UW Google"**

- **https://itconnect.uw.edu/connect/productivity-platforms/google-productivity-platform/#activate**

CLASS UPDATES

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Problem Statement**
  - **Draft: October 18th**
  - **Final: November 15th**
- **Literature Review**
  - **Draft: November 1**
  - **Final: November 29th**
- **Data Collection / Analysis**
  - **Final: December 6th**

GROUP DISCUSSION LEAD

- Second Class of the Week

- 40 min discussion / presentation / engagement

- The topics are purposefully vague.

  - You pick readings (of any variety - blog, published article, newspaper article, etc)

  - Teach your colleagues about the topic + Engage them in thinking about the topic

- Schedule

  - Sign up by Friday (3-5 people per group)

  - On Friday night (the week before your presentation) you will send me the 2-3 readings and 1 paragraph about what your group plans to do

- Completion Grade 5 points (very minimal component of your grade)

GROUPS

- **Discussion Group Leads (remote only)**
  - **Sign up by topic**
- **Assignment / Exercise / In-Class Groups (in-person)**
  - **Self-select by Friday (otherwise I will assign you)**

OMBUDSPERSON

https://isthisasandwich.netlify.app/

LECTURE

Agenda

Research Paradigms

- Ontology

- Epistemology

- Methods

Dominant Paradigms in LIS

- Positivism

- Constructivism / Subjectivism

- And more…

Research Paradigm

- **Paradigm** - Group of people that share a worldview - generally about what the world consists of and what is valid

- **Research Paradigm** - Group of researchers that agree about what constitutes reality and how we gain valid or true knowledge of reality

  - Same methods, same journals, same professional identities, etc.

Kristen Uroda for NPR - Read this amazing story here https://www.npr.org/2020/02/28/810035026/short-wave-celebrates-black-excellence-in-science

Research Paradigm

- **Paradigm** - Group of people that share a worldview - generally about what the world consists of and what is valid

- **Research Paradigm** - Group of researchers that agree about what constitutes reality and how we gain valid or true knowledge of reality

  - Same methods, same journals, same professional identities, etc.

Ontology

- **What** constitutes reality? (Or, what is valid within a paradigm of knowledge)
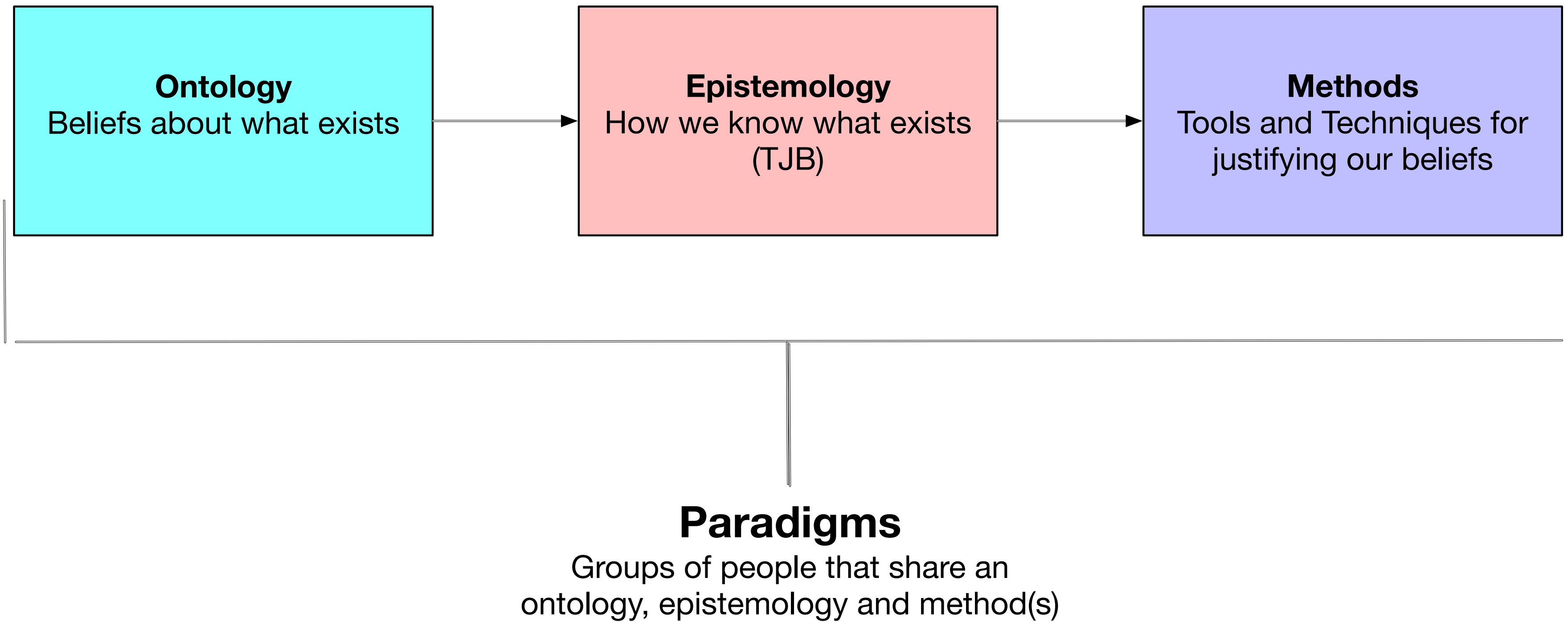
Epistemology + Methods

- **How** we know what we know

- Knowledge = True + Justified + Beliefs

  - Believe something is the case; Justified in our belief; The belief turns out to be true

- In social science research we try to gather justification for our beliefs using systematic **methods** of data collection and analysis

- Epistemology and methodology are tightly linked

Putting it all together

- Survey (Yes / No judgements) to collect data

- Two variables were used to analyze our results: Structure and Ingredients.

- Is a hot dog a sandwich?

    - It depends on the ontology of our paradigm!

    - There is no correct or wrong answer - but there is unclear or unsupported reasoning (e.g. "It just is!")

Ontology
Beliefs about what exists

Epistemology
How we know what exists
(TJB)

Methods
Tools and Techniques for
justifying our beliefs

Paradigms
Groups of people that share an
ontology, epistemology and method(s)

Dominant paradigms in Information Science

Research Paradigm	Ontology Reality	Epistemology Knowledge	Methods Tools + Techniques
Positivism	There is one and only one reality / truth	Reality can be measured or inferred through logic	Surveys, data scraping, statistics (usually quant)
Constructivism	Multiple truths each of which is socially constructed	Reality is interpreted and used to give meaning(s) to events, behaviors, etc.	Surveys, observation, interviews, archival analysis (usually qual)

BREAK

TAKE 2