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Sinopsis

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This new textbook on methodology in social and political science focuses on the debate between positivist and constructivist approaches. It introduces a range of key issues - from the nature of knowledge to the strengths and weaknesses of the main research methods - showing how methodological pluralism can be combined with intellectual rigour.

'Ways of Knowing is one of a kind. Emphasising methodology and the contrast between naturalist and constructivist ways of knowing, this excellent text addresses fundamental questions in social science methodology in a highly accessible manner.' - Charles Ragin, University of Arizona, USA

'This is a wonderful book, combining a clear exposition of the competing methodologies in the historical social sciences with a reasoned plea for methodological pluralism. Students and their teachers will learn a lot from it, as I myself have.' - Immanuel Wallerstein, Yale University, USA

'A marvelous introduction to methods and methodologies of research. This is the rare introductory textbook that educates students and scholars alike.' - Keith Topper, Northwestern University, USA

'An outstanding textbook and a timely and indispensable guide to social and political analysis of the contemporary world' - Henry W. Nau, George Washington University, USA

'An elegantly written and highly accessible introduction to a topic that is all-too-often opaque and jargon filled. This is a terrific book that my students will find a godsend.' - Richard W. Mansbach, Iowa State University, USA

"Erudite and often engaging_ this is a book which will be of value to both students and established researchers." - Wyn Grant, Political Studies

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Introduction
Philosophy of Naturalist Science
The Experimental Method
The Statistical Method
The Comparative Method
History and Case Studies
Sowing Doubts about the Naturalist Method
A Constructivist Philosophy of Science
From Story Telling to Telling Stories
Comparing Interpretations
Contextualizing Statistics
Interpretive Experiments
Conclusion

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