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Positioning Research

Shifting Paradigms, Interdisciplinarity and Indigeneity

FIRST EDITION

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Conclusion: Extrapolating Research

*Margaret Kumar and
Supriya Pattanayak*

Our aim in writing this book was to go beyond the dominant paradigms and recognize the interconnectedness, relationality and holistic nature of lived experiences and realities. A further aim was to critique existing methodological paradigms and provide new perceptions of phenomena encompassing other trajectories. Time and again we have found that the methodologies available to conduct research were often inappropriate and irrelevant to the contexts in which we worked. Therefore, it was important to elucidate the irrelevance of certain methodologies and/or analytic categories to cultural frameworks. An attempt was also made to critically engage with debates around particularism and universalism, difference and commonality. Finally, a revalidation and legitimation of a history and tradition of theorizing, which has been subjugated by the hegemony of Eurocentric and or Western theorizing, was attempted.

In following these aims and objectives, we began to show how we position research especially in relation to shifting paradigms, interdisciplinarity and indigeneity. In light of what were our intentions, we have titled our concluding chapter 'Extrapolating Research'. In extrapolating the contribution of our contributors, who comprise early career researchers, academics, practitioners, researchers and scholars, we present the metaphor of 'leaves and leafing'.

'Leaves and leafing' denotes the many facets of positioning research that this chapter has sought to 'unearth' and the way these have been 'scattered' in the arena of research. Our gathering of the many facets of this 'scattering' involved a diligent 'leafing' through the many perspectives that were sent for review. The purpose behind this was to give our