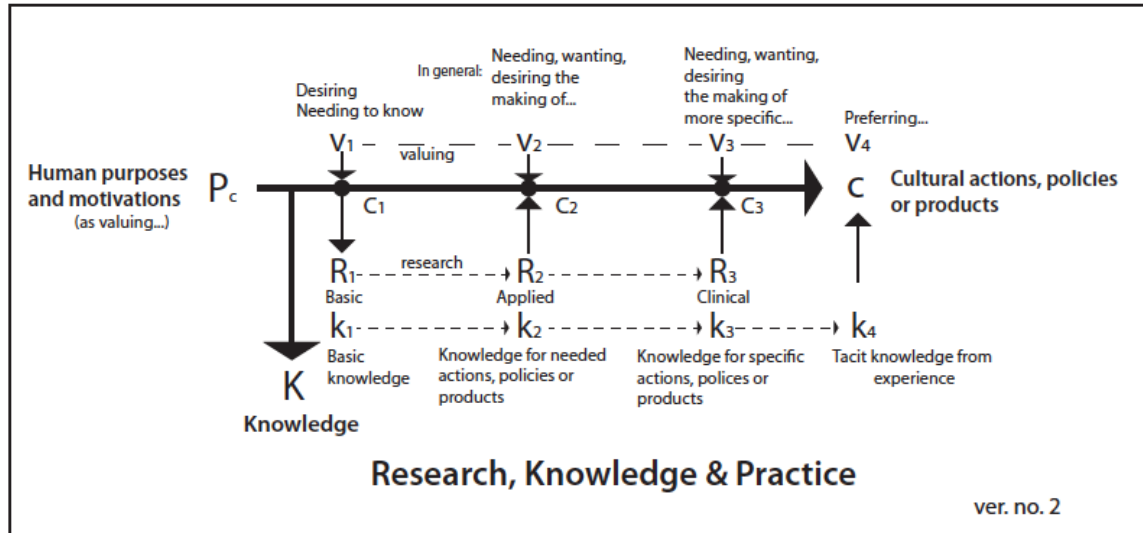


Diagram of Research, Knowledge and Practice

Here's a diagram of the way I conceive of knowledge, research and practice, using the basic, applied and clinical model for research that Ken Friedman describes.



Jerry Diethelm

It more explicitly emphasizes the connection of research and knowledge to their human purposes and motivations. This is of course implied in the terms applied and clinical, but I show the valuing dimension because I think the motivating force from the consciousness connection is often lost in our desire for our models to be as objective as possible. Research more pointedly becomes “research in order to.”

The diagram has two main paths from human purposes and motivations, one leads to the production of cultural actions, policies and products, the other to the production of knowledge. Applied knowledge grows out of basic knowledge to support useful cultural ends. Clinical knowledge supports the production of specific cultural products. Clinical practice no doubt calls on tacit knowledge.

As Ken describes, each of the forms of research is associated with its motivating values and beliefs. I use V for the valuing dimension in the diagram. Beliefs, on my view, are sacred values.

A central human purpose is V1, the desire to know. Human knowledge is a cultural product. V2 is the more general case of cultural production, and its aims of cultural support and enhancement utilize applied knowledge. V3 is the more focused and situated professional practice. V4 is an acknowledgement of the tacit knowledge that grows in human experience.

One key difference I find in the two main paths is that the valuing dimension in cultural production is the parent of the process, while in knowledge production it must be distilled out to produce reliable theory and fact.