

Pedagogic Research: Excellence in Understanding Learner and Learning



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Today:



- stimulate discussion as to:
 - the potential of PedR for challenging the design of teaching, learning and assessment.....thus empowering learners
 - your aspirations and opportunities to do it?
 - Hopefully add to the HE sector discourse, momentum and practice that's developing around this area



PedR and the immersive student experience



- The HE student experience should be a holistic synthesis of the activities other sectors may see as discrete –teaching and research – in good HE learning environments the separation is unhelpful and synthetic
- We ‘know’ that there are significant learning gains when we immerse students in a rich, research–informed pedagogy.....how do we know this? Where is the robust, conclusive evidence?
- So our activity might include researching the teaching and learning dynamic itself

What is pedagogic research (PedR)?

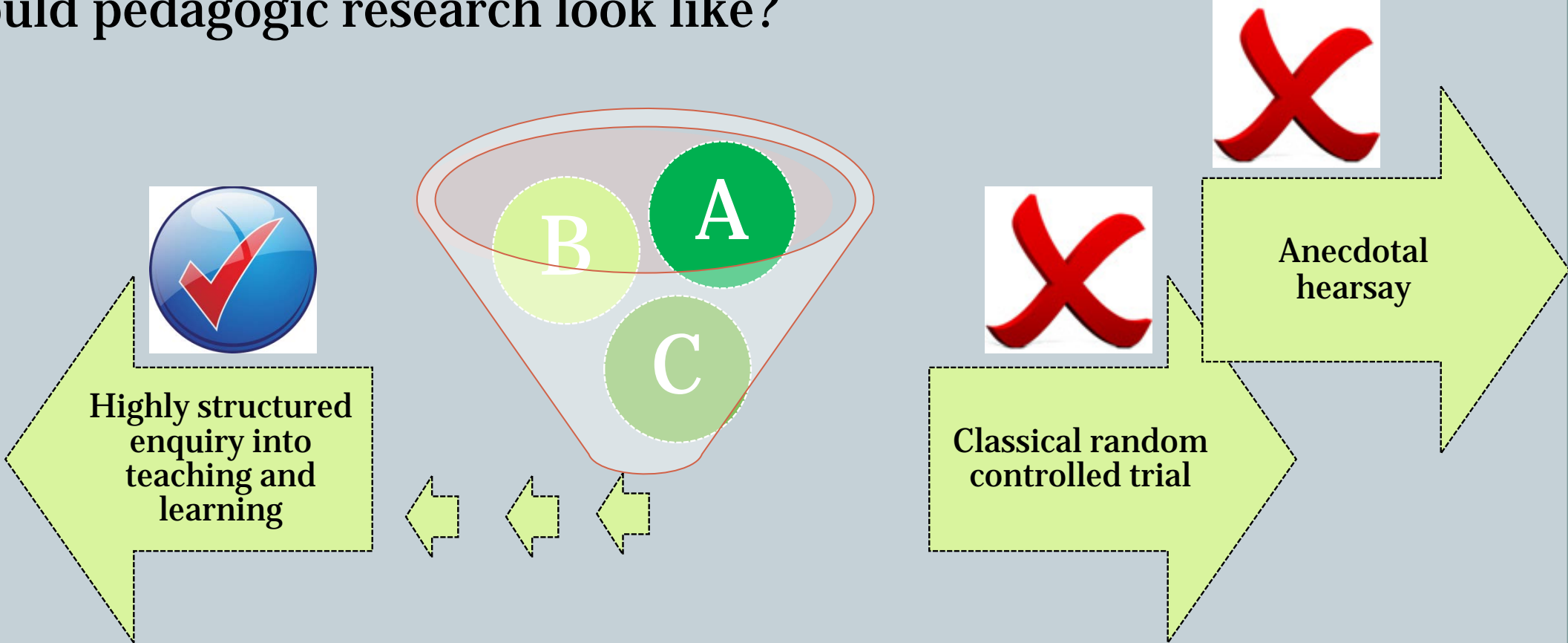


- Pedagogy is the art and/or science of teaching and learning, and the complex interactions between them
- **Our knowledge of teaching and learning dynamics is generated, tested, inquired into and better understood through pedagogic *research***
- PedR is applied social science and therefore a REF-able and legitimate form of research
- Quantitative or qualitative approaches, or sometimes a combination of the two
- Should follow the established processes and protocols of methodologically robust and ethically sufficient social science

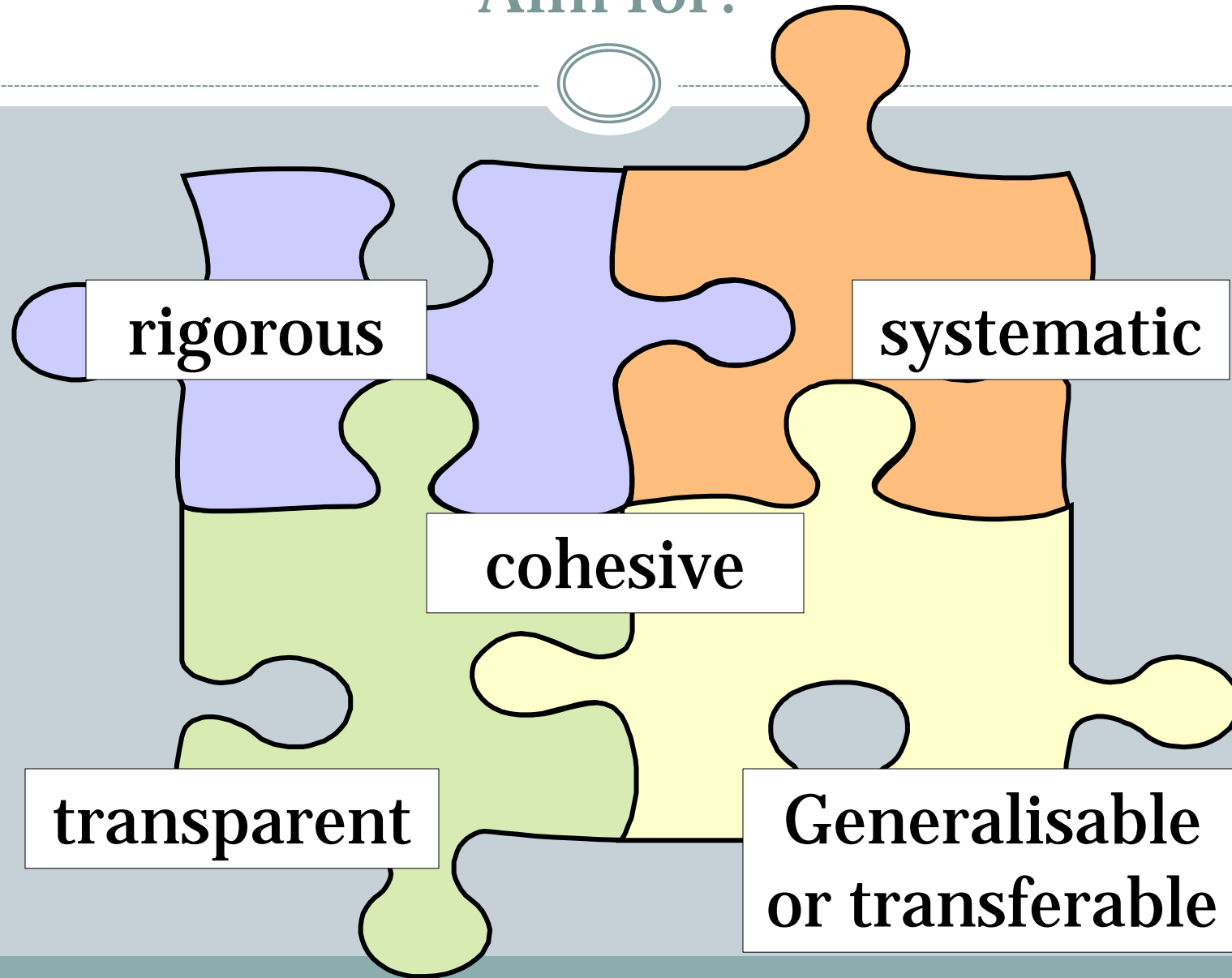
How: designing pedagogic research



What should pedagogic research look like?



Aim for:



rigorous

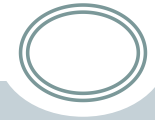
systematic

cohesive

transparent

**Generalisable
or transferable**

Also:



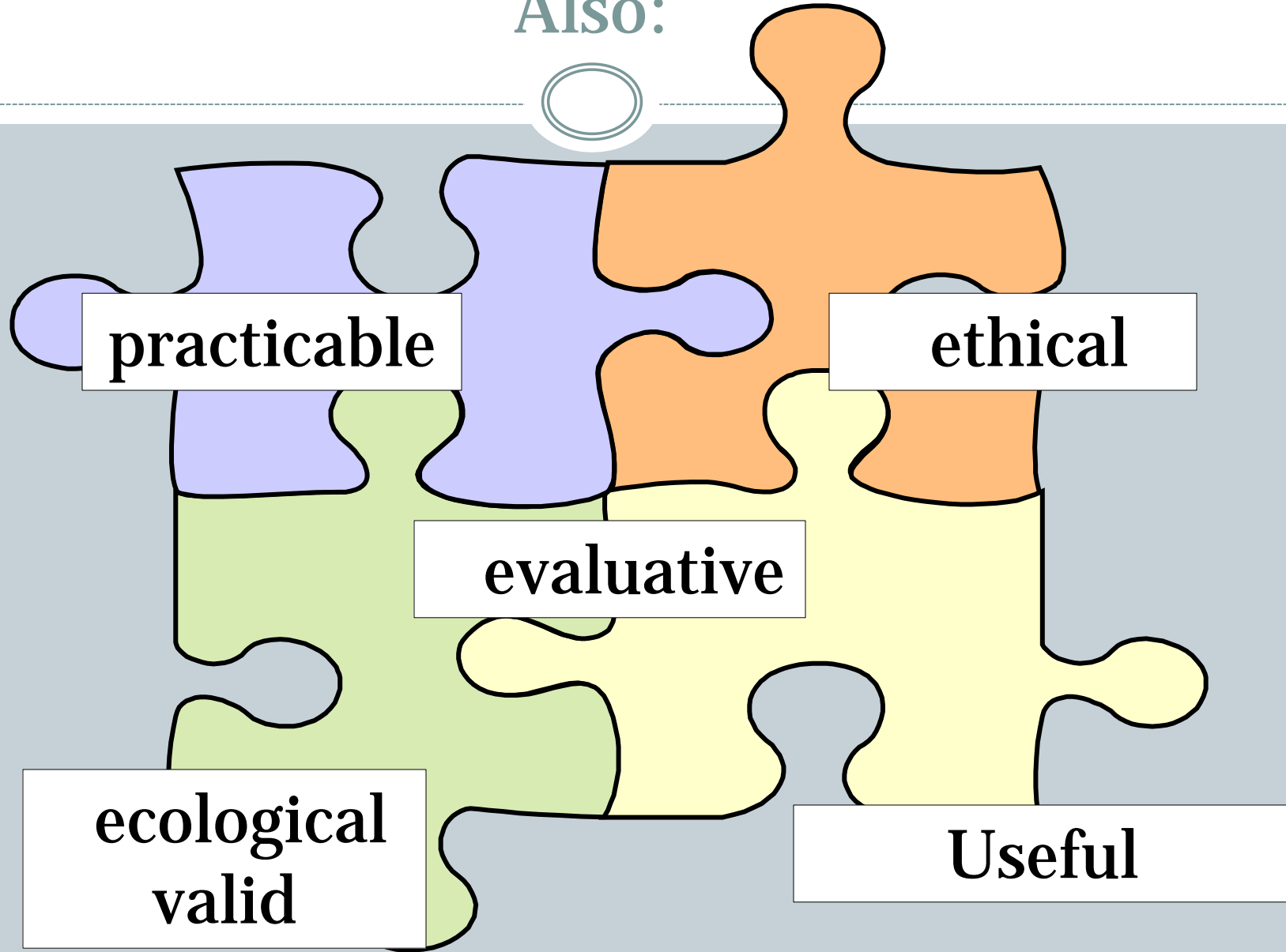
practicable

ethical

evaluative

**ecological
valid**

Useful



Why do it?



- PedR as a strategic tool in improving our understanding of teaching, learning and assessment, therefore bettering our appreciation of the student experience and how to improve it (NSS, TEF, league tables)
- PedR undertakings that positively impact your professional identity and development? (REF?)
- Could PedR take you into some exciting collaborations?
- Could PedR positively impact society?

Universities in the 21st Century



The past: ivory towers of abstract thinking and pure research

Now: plugged into the heart of societal development

Headline considerations



- Not only bettering our understanding the student experience whereby students are the recipients of our efforts, but how do we engage **students** in understanding and developing their student experiences? – could PedR be a way in?
- Students are already key stakeholders in the T&L exchange, so how to get them involved as co-researchers in your enquires into teaching, learning and assessment (rather than students being a passive research population)
- Might students even instigate and lead? What are the pragmatic or infrastructural hurdles?

Activity – 15 mins



- Choose any subset of questions – discuss
- Be prepared to feedback three aspects:
 - What was the main gist of the discussion (in one sentence)
 - What did you conclude overall?
 - What do you need (to do something, or to happen next etc)
 -

Final considerations



- Enhancing the student experience (therefore positively impacting the NSS, TEF etc)
- Your REF
- HEA fellowships - National Teaching Fellowship schemes
- Other awards, internal and external

Money, ethics, research outputs and publishing



- **External funds:** be creative about seeing the potential for and costing in small scale PedR projects as part and parcel of bigger, more traditional bidding activity
- **Internal funds:** be creative with internally available RKT seed funding
- **Ethics:** PedR is publishable research and therefore a different activity to ongoing systemic module/programme evaluation....check out your institutional ethics scrutiny processes at your planning stage
- **REF2020/2021/22:** there might not be a unit of assessment of 'Education' from your institution but PedR outputs can be returned within discipline-specific UoAs if they fit the narrative