

## Building a Community of Scholars

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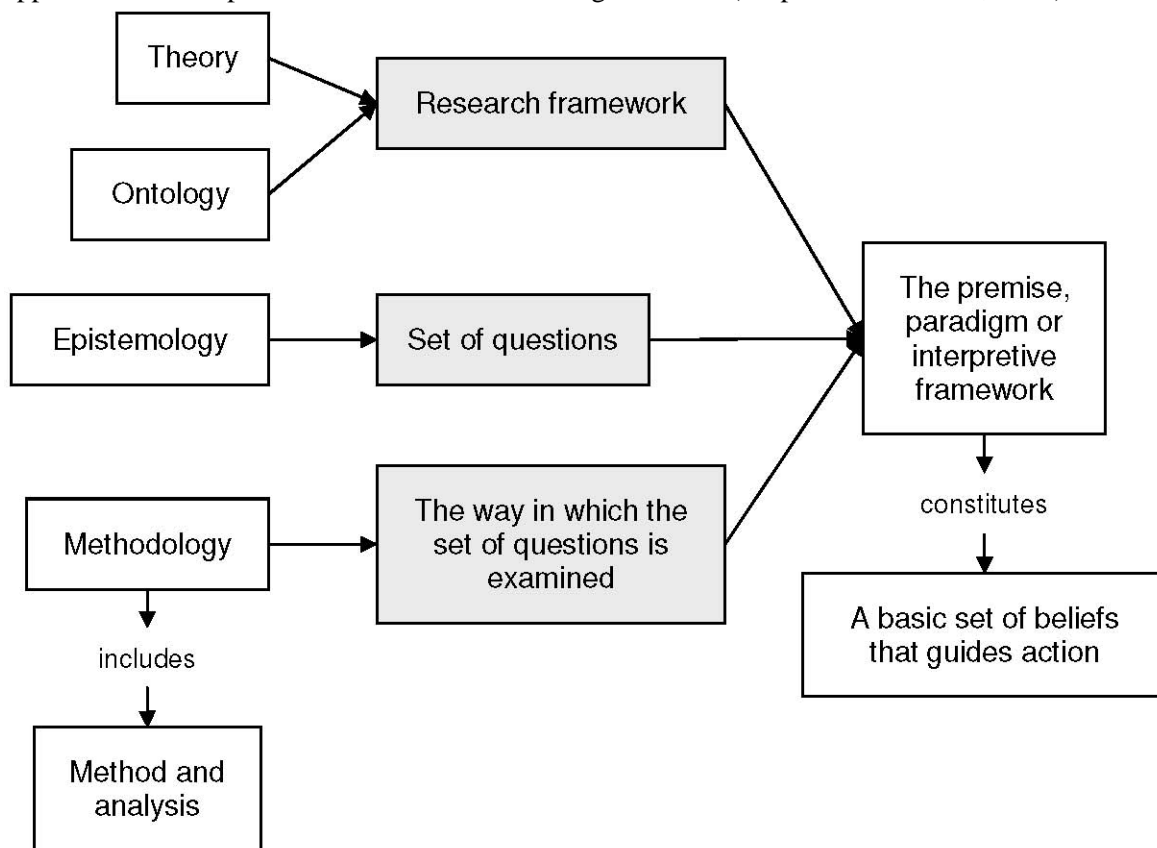
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***Abstract:** This is an outline for a workshop aimed at building and strengthening a global community of researchers in engineering education.*

### Overview

The intent of REES is to build a global community of researchers in engineering education. This workshop seeks to advance this intent by offering an opportunity to explore the ontology, epistemology and methodology of engineering education. Together these constitute an integrated system of interrelated practice and thinking that defines the nature of enquiry and the interpretive framework of this field. Ontology defines our research framework, epistemology determines our research questions, and methodology specifies both the research methods and the analytical approaches we adopt. This is summarised in the figure below (adapted from Clarke, 2005).



## Process

This workshop will adopt a “world café” approach (Brown, 2001) to addressing the four fundamental questions:

1. Who are we, what do we value and how might we collaborate?
2. What research frameworks do we use?
3. What are the ‘big’ research questions of engineering education globally?
4. What methodologies do we adopt or want to develop?

We want this workshop to be an opportunity for reflexivity with a deep exploration of the assumptions, interpretive frameworks and cultural paradigms which underpin both current and future practice in engineering education research.

## References

Clarke, E. 2005. *Situational Analysis. Grounded Theory after the Postmodern Turn*. Sage publications: London.

Brown, J. (2001), *The World Café: Living Knowledge Through Conversations that Matter*. Mill Valley CA. Whole Systems Associates.

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