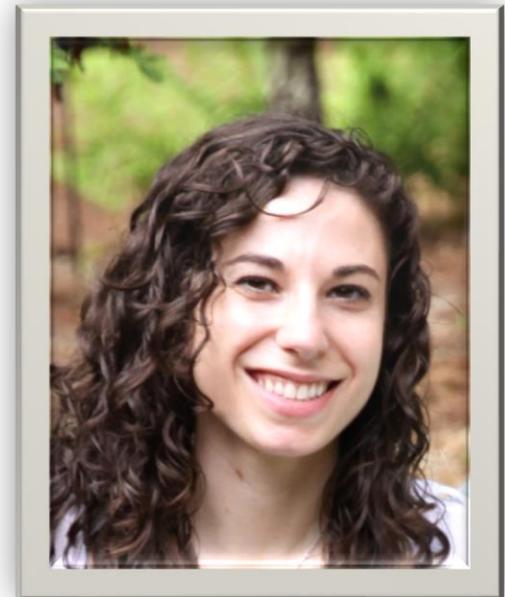


Subjectivity in Educational Research

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You will be able to:

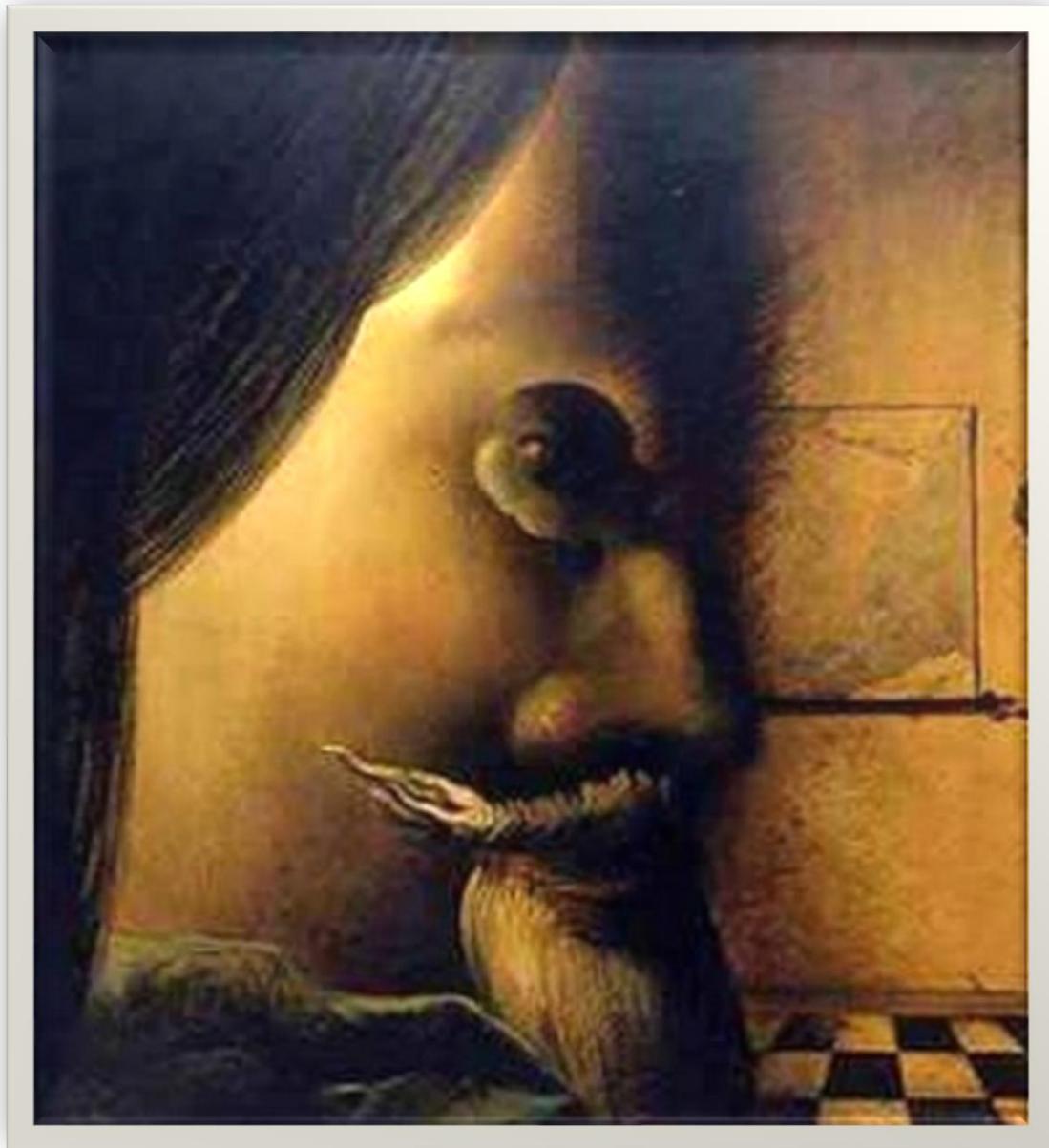
- Define subjectivity
- Understand the relevance of subjectivity in (qualitative) research
- Identify practical methods to practice reflexivity and engage subjectivity
- Begin practicing reflexivity to become aware of your own subjectivity











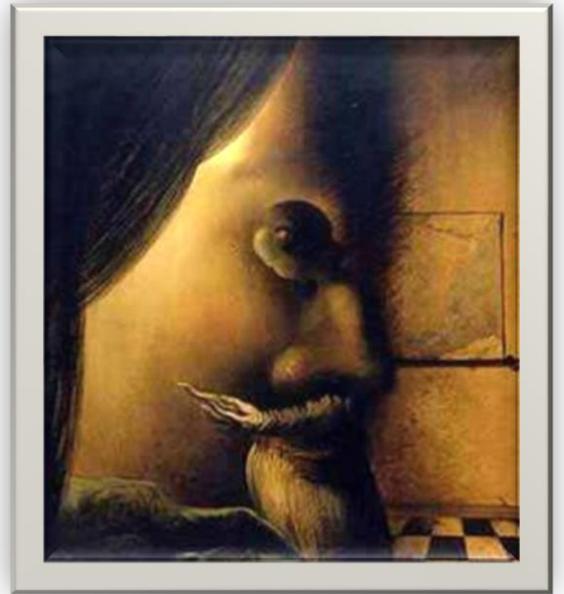
VIA 9GAG.COM

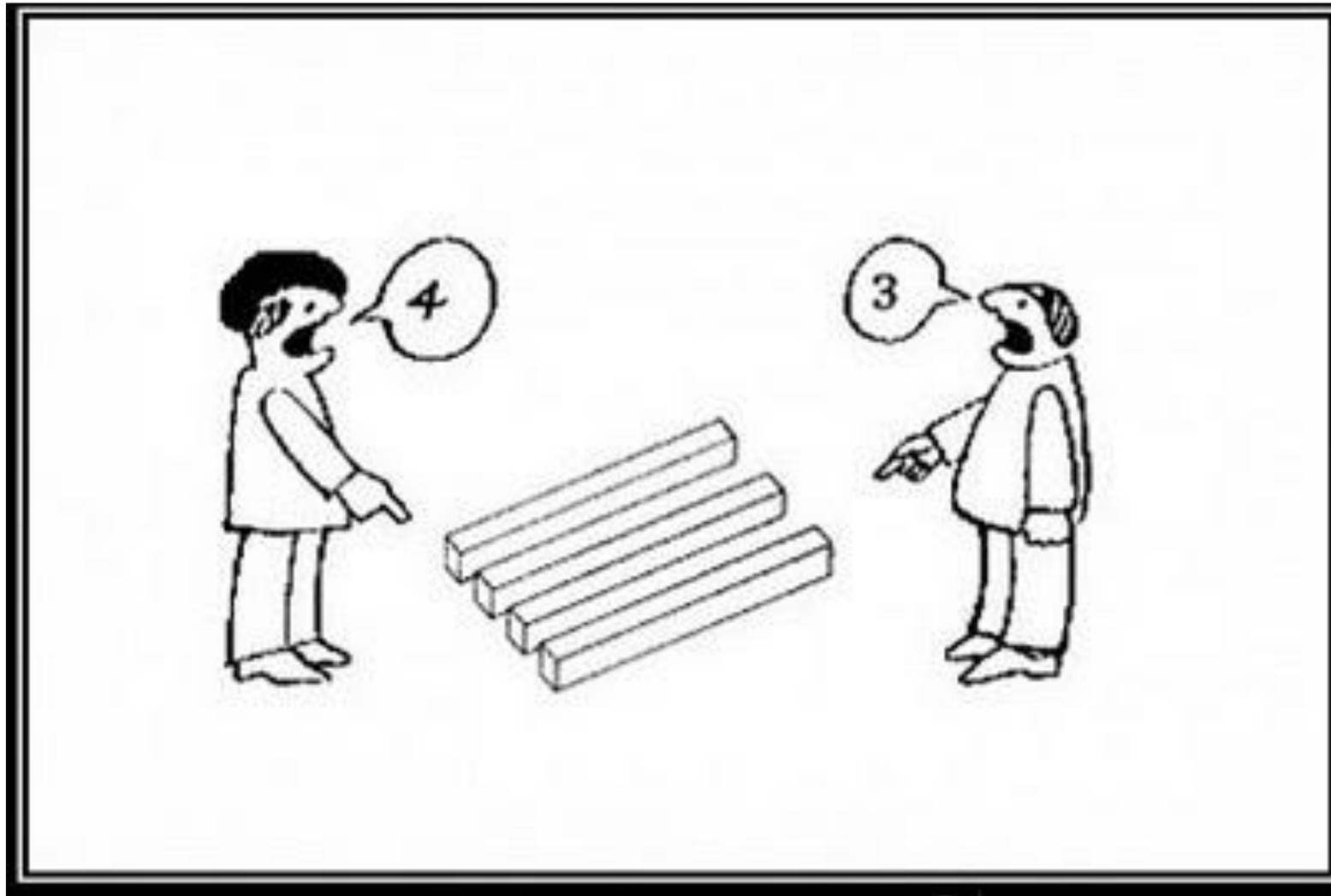
up

or

down?







Researcher as Instrument



Subjectivity

- Feelings, opinions, and preferences that comprise a person's identity
- Sometimes contrasted with objectivity
- Should not ignore subjectivity in qualitative research
- “Subjectivity is like a cloak...” (Peshkin, 1988)
- Vital to social science research



Reflexivity



- “A qualitative researcher’s engagement of continuous examination and explanation of how they have influenced a research project” (Dowling, 2008, p. 2)
- Requires critical self-reflection
- Extent of reflexivity determined by methodological and epistemological approaches



But, Why? How?

- Enhances quality and rigor
- Methods: researcher journals, researcher interviews, interviewer analysis, and subjectivity statements
 - “A summary of who researchers are in relation to what and whom they are studying” (Preissle, 2008)
 - Include “personal histories, cultural worldviews, and professional experiences” (Preissle, 2008)



What Do You Think?

- How would you engage subjectivity in your research process?
- What life experiences, values, and beliefs inform your research interests?
- How does your subjectivity come to light in your own research?



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