**Chapter 1**

**Introduction to Scientific Research**

Marina Bastounis : She’s a social pycholo**gist**, a **researcher,** she **conducts research**

(Faire une recherche = to conduct research) = se carries out (to **carry out**) research in Social Psychology

The aim of ANP1

* **Train** students to study (read & analyse) research in any field of Psychology.

To train = to **teach**

What is research?

Any activity that aims at the exploration, description, & understanding of how the world functions.

… so what?

If we understand how phenome**na** (au pluriel) function, we can

* Control them
* Use them to our advantage
* Predict the future

Scientists devise (construisent) yet another way of delaying death

What is scientific research?

* Science is knowledge collected through **scientific procedures**
* Each science has an **object** (of knowledge)& a **method**

What is a scientific procedure?

A method of **investigation** that is

* Objective
* Systematic
* Replicable (sthg that I can do again)

Theory: definition

An organized set of **principles** used to explain observed phenomena

(This is not because a theory exists, it’s doesn’t mean that it’s true.)

Scientific research:

1. The purpose of a study is to **test a** **hypothesis** (singulier).
2. Hypotheses (pluriel) are **inspired by a theory.**
3. The results of the study **confirm** (or **disconfirm**) the hypothesis.
4. The results **support** (nor not) the theory.

The cycle of research (p.10)

Empirical observation ⇐ Research design

⇓ ⇑

Principle induction Hypothesis testing

⇓ ⇑

Theory development ⇒ Hypothesis deduction

So Psychology ≠ Astrology

Theoretical paradigm:

A common set of **beliefs & theoretical assumptions** shared by a group of scientist.

What is the *object* of psychology?

The study of **human behavior** as a subject for **scientific investigation**.

What are the *methods* psychological research?

* Observation of phenomena:
* **Observation, case study** (you don’t do anything)
* Investigation of what people think:
* **Survey** (enquête), **poll** (sondage), **interview** (entretien)
* Testing how phenomena function : **experimentation**

Summary of research methods & their instruments (Box 3, p.12)

* **Observational studies:** Observation grid (grille), coding system (système de codage), checklist
* **Case studies:** Interview, test, research diary (journal de recherche)
* **Interviews:** Interview guide or schedule (tout doit être standardisé, scientifique)
* **Testing:** Tests, inventories (inventaires), scales (échelles)
* **Survey designs:** Questionnaires, scales, interviews, inventories
* **Experimental designs (plans expérimentaux) :** Tasks (tâche), questionnaires, scales

Summary : purpose of research

**Description** & **measurement**

**Explanation** & **prediction**

**Application** & **control**

**ANP focuses on the study of scientific reports, their structure & content.**