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Novelty in research: A common reason for manuscript rejection!

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Is novelty the only reason for rejection?

1. Understanding novelty

● Literal paradox in “Novel Research”

Research, as defined by the Cambridge Dictionary is ‘*a detailed study of a subject, especially in order to discover (new) information or reach a (new) understanding*’. Novelty on the other hand is defined as ‘*the quality of being new, original, or unusual*’ or a ‘new or unfamiliar thing or experience’. Therefore, adding the adjective novel along with research is actually one of the most common redundancies *that is similar to ‘return back’ or ‘revert back’* and denotes one and the same thing

1. Understanding novelty

- **Then what does it mean by ‘Novelty’?**
 - Novel research can be best described as *one or more elements of research that are unique*, such as a new methodology or a new observation that leads to the *acquisition of new knowledge*. It is this novelty that *contributes* to scientific progress.
 - Aim of the research should be unraveling what is unknown;
 - Challenge views or ideas that are not based on sound scientific principles; (Hallsworth, 2023)
 - Expand our horizon beyond the realm of known domains (Cohen, 2017)

1. Understanding novelty

● Technological aspect of novelty

- Most research *starts from an idea, a thought, or an observation* that further leads to *hypothesis building, experimentation, data collection, analysis*, and, finally, *principle building*. Technological advancement may stem from any of these phases. Novelty in research *propels the industry to excel and outdo itself*. (Wang, 2020)
- Can novelty in research be measured?

2. How to find novelty?



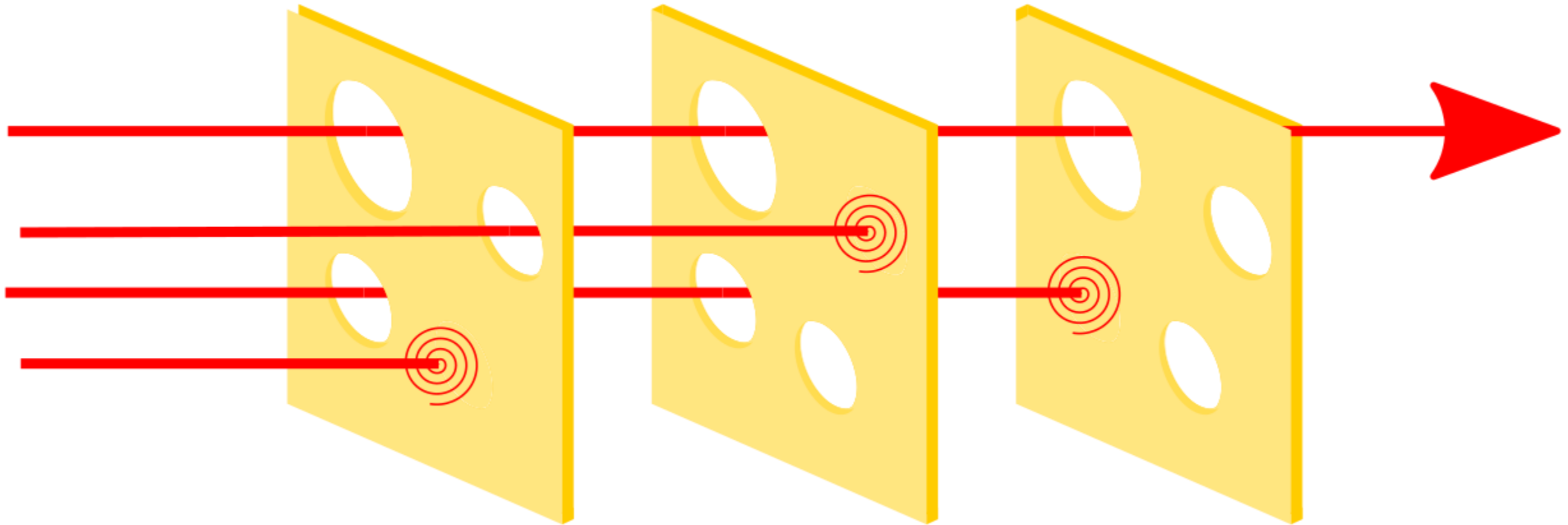
Emmental Cheese



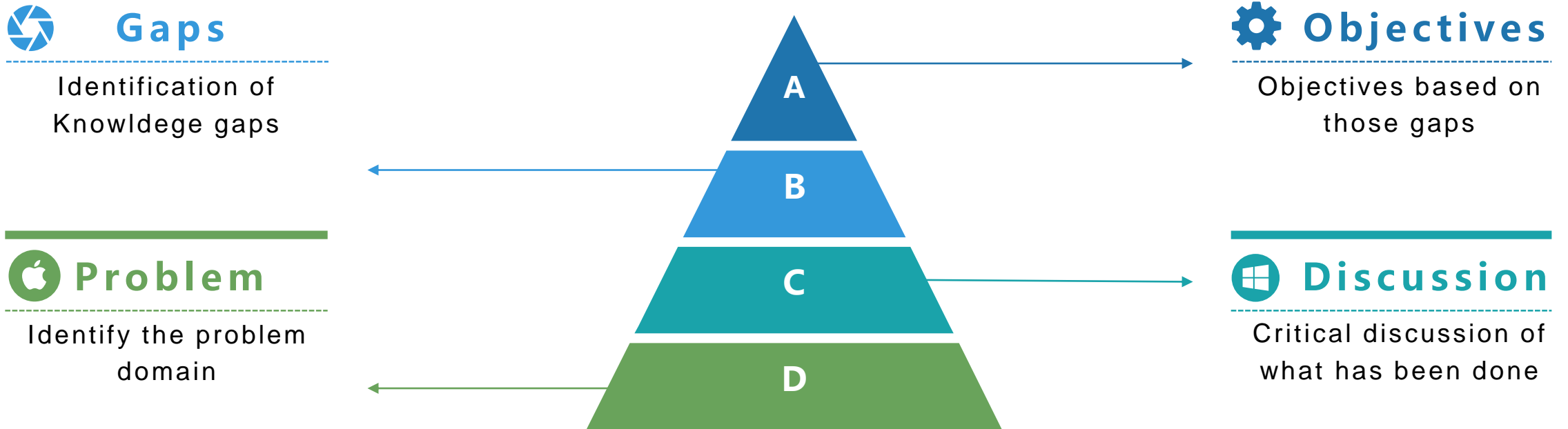
2. How to find novelty?



Swiss Cheese model



2. How to find novelty?

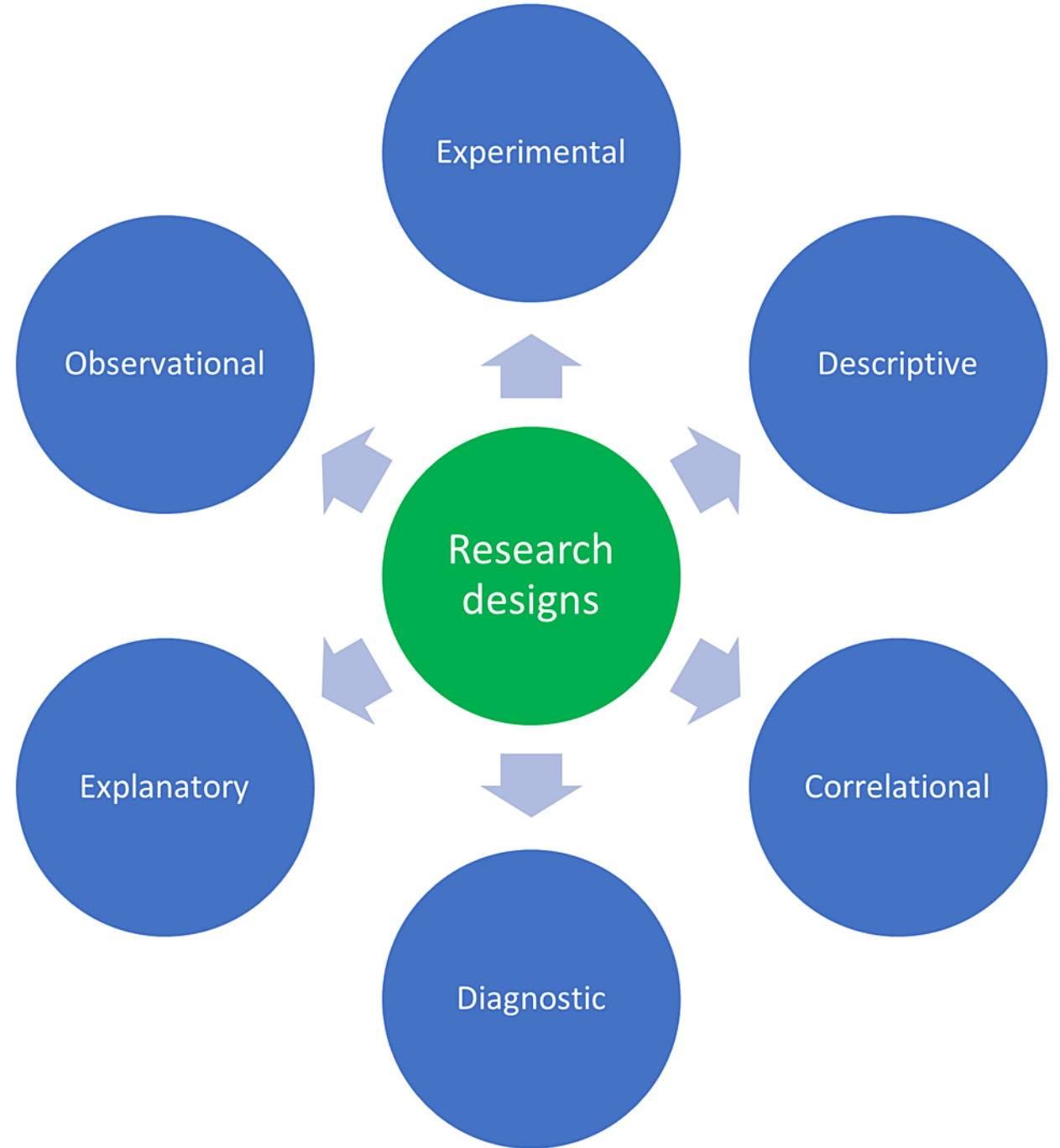


Novelty depends upon the very Research designs.

Novelty is subjective and changes over time.

You should be well connected to your scientific community and society, it is ultimately your community that defines what is novel.

Stay connected to you community to know recent research themes and problems, which demands consideration.



2. How to find novelty

01

Methodology

New methodology, highlighting errancy in any existing method, supplement and supersede previous methods

02

Thematic

Propose any new idea and notion, make an observation-*Thesis*, *Antithesis*, *Synthesis*

03

Study area

Application of any theoretical, econometrical or statistical, and experimental model on a particular geographical area or region

04

Findings

Supplement and supersede previous results

05

Review

Presenting accumulated information on particular topic, with respect to analytical lenses

3. How to position your novelty?

- **Is it all that you have found research gaps?**

Novelty should be well articulated in the manuscript:

Editors when they are reviewing dozens of manuscript every day, they would make sure that novelty is well present thematically-well articulated in *Cover letter, Abstract, Highlights, Introduction, Literature review* and *Discussion* sections.

4. Is lack of novelty the only reason?



01

Improper rationale

Rejection is caused by a lack of emphasis and an inability to stick to the manuscript's theme.

02

Methodological flaw

If a study's approach is flawed or doubtful, the results are almost certain to be flawed or questions as well.

03

Irrelevant subject matter

The manuscript must have considerable empirical merit to be published in a well-recognized, international journal.

04

Too narrow or broad canvas

Focusing on a broader spectrum, which results in lack of compelling and specific findings. Specialized articles can be rejected by journals because it does not catch up wide range of readership.

4. Is lack of novelty the only reason?



05

Lack of interpretations

It is not enough to demonstrate good results. Even if the findings aren't quite what the author anticipated, the author should objectively understand the reason in the discussion section.

06

Outdated references

Too old citations (pre-2000 era) can result in manuscript rejection at the peer-review level

07

Incomplete statistics

The risk of the manuscript being accepted would be increased if the data are presented precisely, and mathematical rules are applied.

08

Reviewers field of knowledge

Occasionally, a manuscript may be submitted to a reader who is not an authority in the area of the matter under consideration.

4. Is lack of novelty the only reason?



09

No citation of concerned journal

The manuscript can also be rejected if you have not cited sufficient amount of papers from the journal you intend to submit.

10

Double submission

The manuscript can be rejected at the editor desk, if submitted the same manuscript in more than one journal

11

Insignificant results

The findings of the study does not contribute much to the relevant research field from the policy perspective and subsequent researches

12

Conservative nature of editors

If you are two-steps ahead (too groundbreaking or innovative) of your community, they can give you desk rejection because they won't believe it

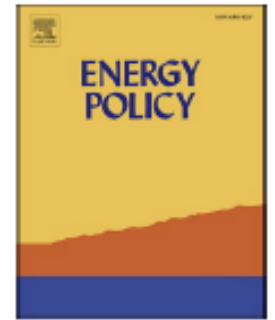


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Do socioeconomic factors determine household multidimensional energy poverty? Empirical evidence from South Asia

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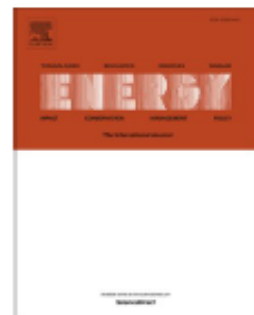
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THANKS

Any Questions?
