



Tricks of the Trade: How to Think About Your Research While You're Doing it

By Howard Saul Becker

The University of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Tricks of the Trade: How to Think About Your Research While You're Doing it, Howard Saul Becker, Designed to help students learn how to think about research projects, this guide offers suggestions which cover four broad areas of social science: the creation of the "imagery" to guide research; methods of "sampling" to generate maximum variety in the data; the development of "concepts" to organize findings; and the use of "logical" methods to explore systematically the implications of what is found. The advice ranges from simple tricks such as changing an interview question from "Why?" to "How?" (as a way of getting people to talk without asking for a justification) to more technical tricks such as how to manipulate truth tables. Drawing from a variety of fields such as art history, anthropology, sociology, literature and philosophy, the author ranges from James Agee to Ludwig Wittgenstein, to find the common principles which lie behind good social science work, principles that apply to both quantitative and qualitative research.

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