Quality in Educational Research

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Donald Rumsfeld as epistemologist

There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don’t know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don’t know we don’t know.

Feb 12, 2002, Department of Defense news briefing
Donald Rumsfeld as epistemologist (2)

“… the absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence. It is basically saying the same thing in a different way. Simply because you do not have evidence that something does exist does not mean that you have evidence that it doesn’t exist.”
The seminars

**Seminar 1** Quality in evidence – the quality of facts and how they ‘travel’

**Seminar 2** Assessing quality in case study and qualitative research

**Seminar 3** Clarifying standards of excellence in practice-based research

**Seminar 4** Excellence and quality in RCTs and experimental designs

**Seminar 5** Crossing paradigms. Resolving issues of quality across epistemologies
What does it mean to be good at something

- Ideal societies (the Republic)
- Ideal heroes (Achilles or Hercules)
- Ideal character (arête or ‘virtue’)

What do judgements of quality rest upon?