

## **Doing critical realist-informed social science research: some foundational concepts in use**

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As critical realism continues to develop as a philosophy, it is also growing in its role as an underlabourer for social science research. This paper identifies some core concepts that are being used as foundational pillars for critical realist-inspired empirical research methodologies. It shows examples of how they are being operationalised and to what purpose. The analysis is based on 29 in-depth interviews with international critical realist-influenced researchers from a diversity of disciplines, areas of inquiry and research experience. Although not claiming to be a 'systematic' or complete review of how critical realism is being employed to support empirical studies, the paper offers illuminating and inspiring insights into the potential implications of the meta-theory for research objectives, design and outcomes. The research provides examples of how critical realism inspires and scaffolds scholars engaging in transformative and emancipatory social science research towards flourishing for all.