

## **The Research Question**

## Main types of research questions<sup>1</sup>

Descriptive
Observational/Relational
Causal (cause and effect)
Prognosis
Evaluation/Criticism

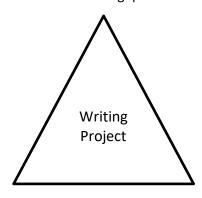
Formative

### Characteristics of a good analytical question

Specific Complex Precise Operational Relevant

The three key parameters of a good research question<sup>2</sup>: If you change one of the key parameters, it affects the other two.

# ...do you want to find out or address? The first starting question



### WITH WHAT?

...do you want to answer the research question, realize the writing project?

E.g.: Literature, references, interviewees, research topic, materials, methodological tools, applied concepts and models

### HOW?

...do you want to answer the question, realize the writing project?

E.g.: Contrast, compare, choose, interview, describe, analyze
Process documentation, theoretical approaches that constitute the theoretical framework.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Nienhüser, Werner; Magnus, Marcel (1998): Die wissenschaftliche Bearbeitung personalwirtschaftlicher Problemstellungen. Eine Einführung. In: Essener Beiträge zur Personalforschung, 4:6.