**IME Worksheet 4.2: Perspectives and Their Consequences**

Relates to **Ways of Thinking: Perspectives and Their Consequences** in IME p. 78

Objectives:

* Pinpoint your perspective regarding your current research purpose
* Consider how your researcher perspective might impact your research project.
* Recognize researcher/author perspective in a source that has been influential in your thinking.

Background: In the introductory chapter, you visited Times Square via the Earthcam, experiencing either a “bird’s eye view” of the entire scene or an “close-up look” at people in specific locale, based on the position of the lens. Here we use that analogy to consider how the researcher’s point of view impacts the research purpose.

1. Below we have separated Figure 4.2 into its component parts to allow you to consider your own researcher perspective. The image (A) to the left portrays a researcher who views the research setting from the outside, personally detached from that which is being observed, perhaps intending to remain objective. The image (B) to the right portrays a researcher who sees themselves as integral to the setting, acknowledging their own subjectivity as well as that of those whose “lived” experiences they seek to interpret. (There are, of course, numerous researcher positions in between these two examples.) A collection of boxes illustrates the continuum between these two points.

Place an X on the box below that comes closest to illustrating your own researcher perspective as suggested by your research purpose.

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1. Explain your response. How does this perspective impact your view of the topic under study and your thoughts about participants and methods?
2. Thinking further:What impacts might researcher perspective have on the work of empiricists, historians, and philosophers?
3. Choose a source from your own collection of scholarly literature that has influenced the way you think about your topic, and use it to answer the questions below. Be sure to cite page and paragraph numbers from any direct quotations or close paraphrases you use:
   1. What acknowledged lenses and roles do you recognize in this source?
   2. How have those lenses and roles contributed to the question(s) asked and answered by the author(s)?
   3. How do you yourself think about the idea(s) under consideration?
   4. Provide a full bibliographic citation for the source.