

**Lecture Notes:**

① The practice of science is a (never-ending) **process** called the **research cycle**, and there are not only **theoretical**, **methodological**, and **practical** considerations at each step, but there are also **political** and **ethical** ones, as well:

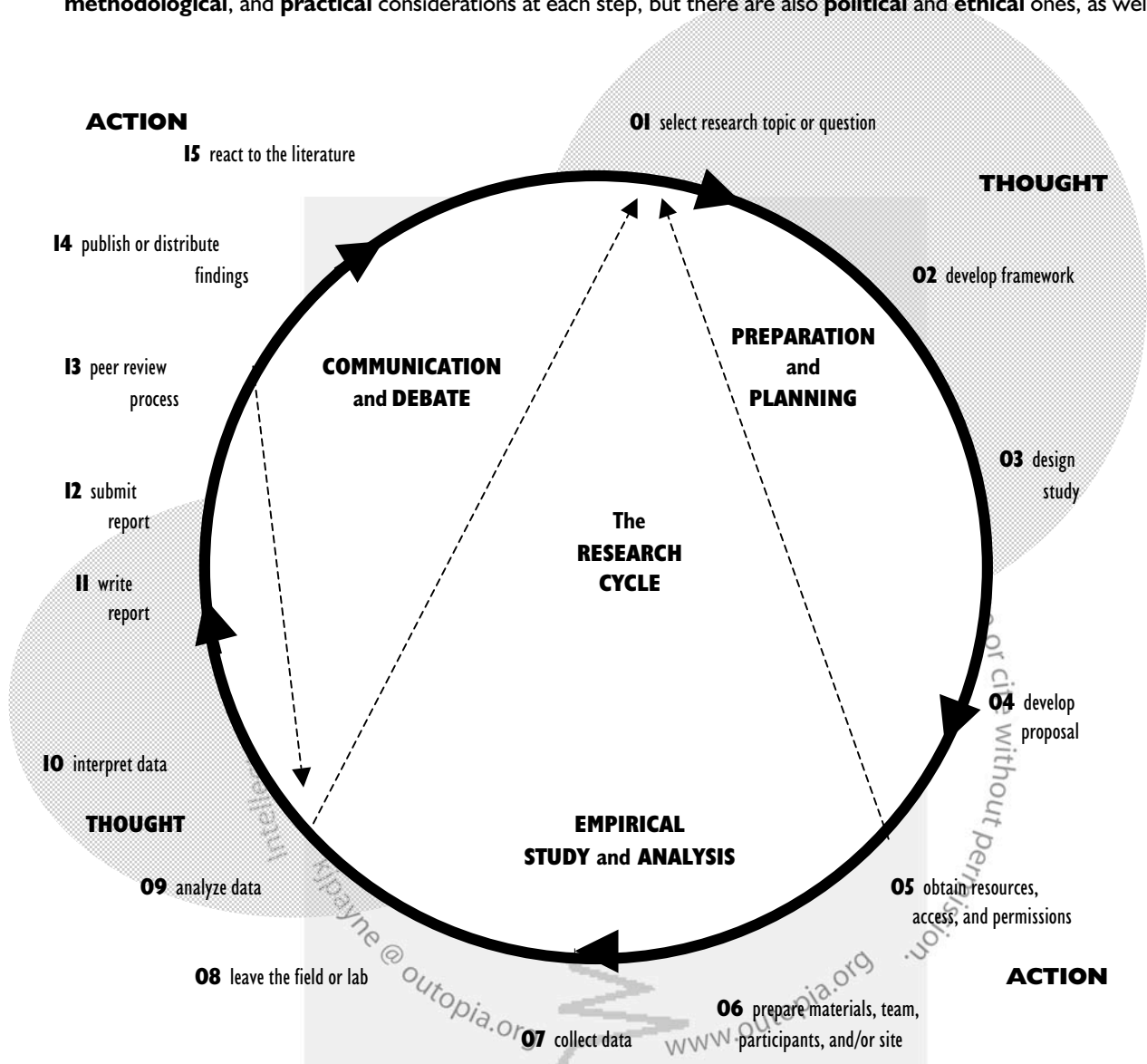


figure 1.1: the reserach cycle

- **political considerations** in research are any which affect the negotiation or allocation of status, power, or resources in order to accomplish the research itself or occur in society as a result of social research
  - legal liability is especially important when studying illegal activities or there may be a high possibility of a civil suit
  - importance of funding or sponsorship on research findings (e.g., political groups)
  - social impact of research findings
  - practical limitations to studies include: financial, political, legal, and security-related

- ③ **ethical considerations** in research are any which affect the social, psychological, and moral well-beings of your participants and the social groups that they represent
- a **harm principle**: subjects should leave your research no worse than when they entered, and better, if possible
    - consider the risk of subjects
    - issues of power (researcher has the power because they set up the study, and they analyze and interpret the results)
  - b **exchange principle**: researcher is getting the data necessary for their work, what are the participants getting in return for their help?
    - working out an acceptable agreement with participants
    - reciprocal rights and responsibilities of researcher and participant
  - c informed **consent** vs. **deception** in research
    - cover stories are acceptable when necessary and with full disclosure after the fact
    - non-disclosure of experiences helps protect participants and prevent contamination bias
    - freedom to withdraw
    - removing harmful consequences
    - post-experimental consequences must also be considered
  - d maintaining promised level of **participant protection**:
    - **privacy**: does your research concern private behaviors or information?
    - **anonymity**: subjects are nameless and researcher doesn't know their identities
    - **confidentiality**: researcher knows subjects' identities, but does not release

**Key Ideas:**

**Harm, consent, cover story, anonymity, confidentiality, institutional review board.**

