What is Epistemology?

In the most simple definition, epistemology poses: What do you know? How do you know what you know?

“Epistemology is concerned with anything that informs or influences us in how we learn and understand what we believe is real. For educators engaged in antibias work, this is deeply important. This is partly why people can have different realities for the same topic or phenomenon.” (p.11)
School-centric Vs. Community-Based Epistemologies

- School-centric Epistemology = “In other words, what Cooper, Riehl, and Hasan are questioning is the power of school-centric voice and perspective. Educators have had sole discretion to decide what is acceptable behavior and good learning in schools.” (p. 12)

- Community-based Epistemology = “Throughout the book, I suggest that leadership in schools should happen in close collaboration with communities, and it should empower children and families; such leadership signals that an equitable power-sharing relationship between communities and schools is optimal.” (p. 13)
Ethnographic Inquiry

Ethnography as cultural work

Inquiry as question-seeking and question-posing

“It has often been stated that ethnography is cultural work, or the work of doing culture. But so many age old questions complicate this understanding of ethnographic work: Whose culture can be seen? By whom? If it is seen, who can represent it?... And are we contributing to oppression of these cultures by potentially exoticizing them to cultural outsiders?” (p.5)