

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL ISSUES**

### **3.1 RESEARCH AND SCIENCE**

- Can a practising clinician's everyday experiences with clients provide the basis for an understanding of psychopathology?
- Are theories of psychopathology that are not scientifically verifiable useful in clinical practice? Can it ever be proven that they are useful?
- What is the difference between a clinician who bases their interventions on un-validated experience and a bogus psychotherapist who invents a so-called therapy whose basic tenets are not amenable to objective assessment?
- Does basing clinical psychology research on scientific method align it too closely to the medical model of psychopathology?
- Is the clinical psychologist's need to alleviate a client's psychological problems more pressing than the need to be scientifically rigorous?
- Is it acceptable for practicing clinical psychologists to view the research literature as irrelevant to their professional practice?

### **3.2 CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH – WHAT DO WE WANT TO FIND OUT?**

- Will understanding of the causes of psychopathology always suggest methods of therapeutic intervention?

### **3.3 RESEARCH DESIGNS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

- Do single case studies have any value if their findings can only rarely be generalised to other cases?

### **3.4 ETHICAL ISSUES IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH**

- What should a clinical psychology researcher do if a participant in a study provides information that they are likely to harm themselves or others or are seriously distressed?