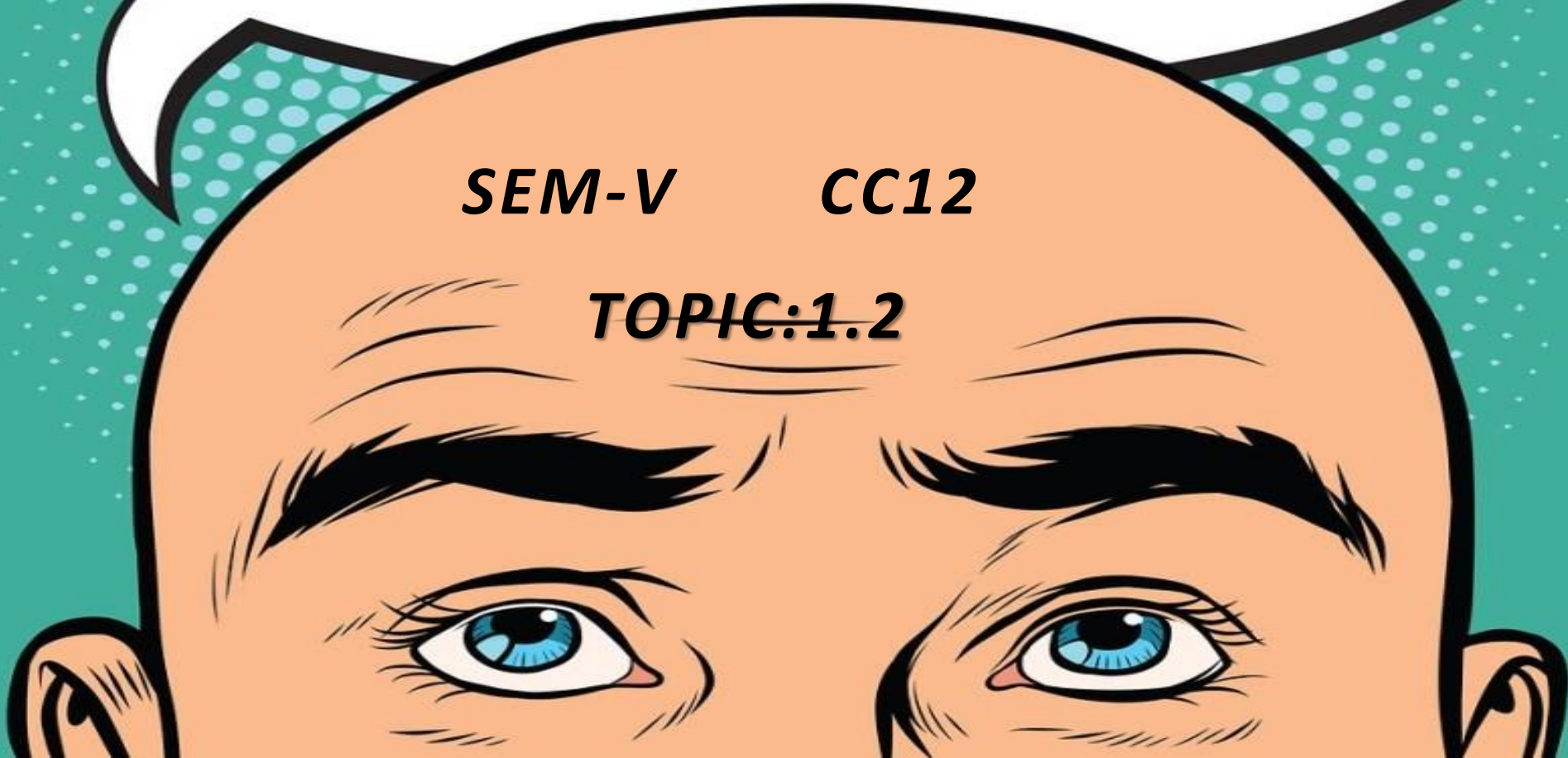


Objectivity & Reflexivity

SEM-V

CC12

TOPIC:1.2



Objectivity

- Objectivity, not a straightforward concept.
 - 'Can be understood in different ways.
- a judgement that is free of prejudice and bias.
- a judgement which is free of all assumptions and values.
- procedures of particular kind to be followed to achieve objectivity,
- Something is objective if it leads to conclusions which are universally accepted.

Can the study of human behaviour be objective?

- 'distinctive human sciences' model: all investigations that aspire to be objective, but different from the natural sciences model.
- Inter-subjective testability
- Observation free from bias
- Value neutrality
- Alvin Gouldner: declaration of values

Durkheim & Weber

- Study of social facts
 - Social facts as objects
 - External to individual
- Weber
 - Value Free Sociology
 - Ideal type
 - Historical comparisons

Reflexivity

- Refers to the ability of the researcher to stand outside the research process and critically reflect on that process
- Explorations of various researcher selves that are active in the process
- Mats Alvesson: Reflexive pragmatism
- characterized by the relationship it establishes between being a sociologist and being a person.
- Embodies a critique of the conventional conception of segregated scholarly roles and has a vision of an alternative.