

Twitter Q&A with Tom Chatfield on Critical Thinking

27 May 2022, 2 p.m. BST

[@SAGE Methods](#): The Q&A with @TomChatfield is about to start!

We'll be sharing your questions with Tom and discussing all things criticality and 'Critical Thinking 2e'.

To join the chat and ask any last-minute questions, use #TalkCriticalThinking

[@SAGE Methods](#): Make sure you follow us and @TomChatfield and keep an eye on this thread to read all the answers. #TalkCriticalThinking

[@SAGE Methods](#): **#1 We hear a lot about Critical Thinking, but why is it so important?**

[@TomChatfield](#): We're drowning in information, today; and this means it's **really** important to be able to ask good questions, engage confidently with evidence and reasoning, and think twice before trusting a claim (or your own rapid reactions!)

All this lies at the heart of critical thinking.

[@SAGE Methods](#): **#2 What's different about the second edition of your book 'Critical Thinking'?**

[@TomChatfield](#): We've worked hard to make it as clear & crisp as possible in layout, structure & explanations; to put together a great new digital edition; and to update content & examples in the light of reader feedback & world events. It is, I hope, cleaner, clearer and more complete!

[@SAGE Methods](#): **#3 How can critical thinking be taught alongside other disciplines?**

[@TomChatfield](#): Critical thinking shouldn't be abstract. It's at its best when it's being used to help people explore specific, concrete questions in detail.

So I **love** to see reflections upon key critical thinking concepts, like confirmation bias, woven into in-depth disciplinary learning.

[@SAGE Methods](#): **#4 Critical thinking can be difficult to teach. What's your top tip for teaching critical thinking when you have limited face-to-face time with students?**

[@TomChatfield](#): Get them questioning and debating! One simple exercise is to ask them to pick a claim they agree with (on a safe topic) then to make the **strongest possible case** for the opposite point of view, if possible in pairs/groups.

It's all about engaging them in an **active** process.

[#TalkCriticalThinking](#)



CRITICAL THINKING
TOM CHATFIELD
2nd Edition

[@SAGE Methods](#): #5 How can critical thinking be used outside of academic life?

[@TomChatfield](#): Above all, I'd say this is about being someone who keeps on learning, questioning and developing; who thinks for themselves; and who's interested in working as rigorously as richly as possible with *other people* in order to come up with better ideas and understandings, together.

[@SAGE Methods](#): #6 How does critical thinking help us be better users of technology?

[@TomChatfield](#): Technology can endlessly offer us answers; but it cannot give us questions or understandings.

These must come from us; and deploying them wisely demands critical reflection about *both* the technologies we use *and* the structural assumptions/incentives built into them.

[@SAGE Methods](#): #7 What advice or steps would you suggest we (citizens) take in order to combat disinformation?

[@TomChatfield](#): This is so hard, because it can be bound up with power and control. Try honestly to ask *why* you should accept any claim; *who* you trust to care about accuracy and truth; and *how* you might check and contextualise something. If in doubt, pause & seek cognitive reinforcements.

As for acting as citizens actively to oppose disinformation, as opposed to merely trying to see through it: build your own networks of trust and verification; don't amplify or engage with untruth; try to understand the big picture & roots of a false narrative's power; and be careful.

[@SAGE Methods](#): That's the end of our #TalkCriticalThinking Q&A with @TomChatfield, thank you for submitting your questions and joining us today.

If you haven't yet, you can get your inspection copy of 'Critical Thinking 2e' [here](#).

[View the thread on Twitter.](#)

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