

Patchwork

In [scientific methodology](#), a **patchwork** refers to a **collection of disparate, loosely connected components** (e.g., techniques, tools, datasets) that are combined **without true integration, coherence, or standardization**.

Characteristics

- Lacks a **unifying theoretical or methodological foundation**.
- Combines pre-existing elements without addressing **compatibility or interoperability**.
- Often results in **inconsistencies, redundancy, or unclear logic**.
- Gives the **illusion of completeness** while being methodologically fragmented.

When Used Critically

- Describes studies that **borrow methods from multiple sources** but fail to harmonize them.
- Indicates **poor scientific design**, where the framework emerges from necessity or convenience rather than planning.
- Suggests the work is **assembled rather than conceived**, undermining originality.

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