

106: Philosophy of Science and Social Science
Dr. S. Saunders

Part B: Philosophy of Social Science

[For Part A use reading list 105 & 106: Philosophy of Science]

Introductory Texts:

M.Hollis *The Philosophy of Social Science: An Introduction*, Cambridge: CUP (1994).

A. Rosenberg, *Philosophy of Social Science*, Colorado: Westview Press, (1988).

R.Trigg, *Understanding Social Science: A Philosophical Introduction to the Social Sciences*, Oxford: Blackwell (1985).

Central Texts:

E. Durkheim, *The Rules of Sociological Method*, 1938.

K. Popper, *The Poverty of Historicism*, London: Routledge, 1957.

C. Taylor, *Philosophy and the Human Sciences*, Cambridge: CUP, 1985

M. Weber, *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*, New York: Macmillan, 1949.

P. Winch, *Ethics and Action*, London: RKP, 1972.

Compilations:

M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

M. Brodbeck, ed., *Readings in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences*,

M. Hollis and S. Lukes, eds., *Rationality and Relativism*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

A. Ryan, ed. *The Philosophy of Social Explanation*, 1973.

Topics:

Explanation: Laws

B. Fay, "General Laws and Explaining Behaviour", in *Changing Social Science*, D.R. Sabia and J. Wallulis, eds., Albany: SUNY Press, 1983; reprinted in M.Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

C. Hempel, "The Function of General Laws in History", *J.Phil*, **39**, 1942; reprinted in M.Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

M. Scriven, "A Possible Distinction Between Traditional Scientific Disciplines and the Study of Human Behavior", *Minnesota Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, 1, 1956; reprinted in M.Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

Further Reading

E. Nagel, Ch.13, *The Structure of Science*, New York: Harcourt, 1961.

G. Romanos, "Reflexive Predictions", *Philosophy of Science*, 40, 1973, reprinted in M.Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

L. McIntyre, "'Complexity' and Social Scientific Laws", *Synthese* 97, 1993, reprinted in M.Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

H. Kincaid, "Defending Laws in the Social Sciences", *Philosophy of Social Science*, 20, 1990; reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

Explanation: Interpretation

M. Weber, Ch. 3, *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*, New York: Macmillan, 1949.

C. Taylor, "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man", *Review of Metaphysics*, **25**, pp.3-51, 1971; reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

P. Winch, "Understanding a Primitive Society", in *Ethics and Action*, London: RKP, 1972.

D. Follesdal, "Hermeneutics and the Hypothetico-Deductive Method", *Dielectica*, **33**, pp.319-36, 1979.

Further reading

M. Martin, "Taylor on Interpretation and the Sciences of Man", reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

W. Dray, *Laws and Explanation in History*, pp.118-31, Oxford: OUP, 1957; reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994., as "The Rationale of Action".

A. McIntyre, "Is a Science of Comparative Politics Possible?", in A. Ryan, ed. *The Philosophy of Social Explanation*, 1973.

J. R. Martin, "Another Look at the Doctrine of *Verstehen*", *BJPS*, **20**, pp.53-67, 1969.

Explanation: Historical Explanation

C. Hempel, Ch.10 (Introduction, Part 1, sections 2,3,6), Ch. 11 (Introduction, Sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3), *Aspects of Scientific Explanation*, New York: The Free Press (1965).

C. Hempel, "Explanation in Science and in History", in Colodny, *Frontiers in Science and Philosophy* (1962).

M. Scriven, "Truisms as the Grounds for Historical Explanations", in P. Gardiner, ed., *Theories of History*, 1959.

W. Dray, Ch.2, *Law and Explanation in History*, 1957.

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A. Ryan, Ch.3, *The Philosophy of Social Science*, 1970.

J. Aronson, Ch.3, *A Realist Philosophy of Science*, 1984.

V. Pratt, Ch.15, *The Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, Methuen, 1978.

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Explanation: Functional Explanation

G. A. Cohen, Ch.9,10, *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defense*, Princeton, PUP, 1978.

C. Hempel, "The Logic of Functional Analysis", in C. Hempel, *Aspects of Scientific Explanation*, New York: McMillan, 1965. Reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

A. Rosenberg, Ch.5, *Philosophy of Social Science*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988.

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R.P. Dore, "Function and Cause", *Sociological Review*, **16**, pp.843-53, 1981. Reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

J. Elster, "Functional Explanation", in *Explaining Technical Change*, Cambridge, CUP, pp.55-68, 1983. Reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

E. Nagel, Ch.12 , 14, *The Structure of Science*, New York: Hackett, 1961.

V. Pratt, Ch.14, *The Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, Methuen, 1978.

C. Taylor, Ch.1, *The Explanation of Behaviour*, London: RKP, 1964.

Social Prediction

K.Popper, Part IV, Sec.29-31, *The Poverty of Historicism*, 1957.

V. Pratt, Ch.8, *The Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, Methuen, 1978.

R.Trigg, Ch.1, *Understanding Social Science*, 1985.

G.Romanos, "Reflexive Predictions", *Philosophy of Science*, 40, 1973, reprinted in M.Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

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L.McIntyre, "'Complexity' and Social Scientific Laws", *Synthese* 97, 1993, reprinted in M.Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

A.Grunbaum, "The Falsifiability of a Component of a Theoretical System", in P. Feyerabend and G. Maxwell (eds.), *Mind, Matter and Method*, Minneapolis: UMP, 1966.

A.Grunbaum, "Can we Ascertain the Falsity of a Scientific Hypothesis?", in E. Nagel, Bromberger, and

A.Grunbaum (eds.), *Observation and Theory in Science*, Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1971.

I.Lakatos, "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in I. Lakatos and A. Musgrave (eds.), *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: CUP (1970).

Prediction and Explanation in Economics

J. Hicks, "Is Economics a Science?", in M. Baranzini and R. Scazzieri, eds., *Foundations of Economics*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1986.

K. Popper, Part 1, *The Poverty of Historicism*, 1957.

D. Redman, Ch. 8,9, *Economics and the Philosophy of Science*, Oxford: OUP, 1993.

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O. Morgenstern, *On the Accuracy of Economic Observations*, 2nd Ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1963.

L. Boland, "Testability in Economic Science", *South African Journal of Economics*, **45**, pp.93-105, 1977.

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J. Hicks, Ch.1, *Causality in Economics*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1979.

A. Rosenberg, "Can Economic Theory Explain Everything?", *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, **9**, pp.509-29, 1979.

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P. Mirowski, "Physics and the `Marginalist Revolution'", *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, **8**, pp.361-79, 1984.

E. Leamer, "Let's Take the Con out of Econometrics", *American Economic Review*, **1**, pp.295-302, 1985.

C. Glymour, "Interpreting Leamer", *Economics and Philosophy*, **1**, pp.290-94, 1985.

R. Ackerman, "Popper and German Social Philosophy", in G. Currie and A. Musgrave, eds., *Popper and the Human Sciences*, Dordrecht: M. Nijhoff, 1985.

A. Rosenberg, "Lakatosian Consolations for Economics", *Economics and Philosophy*, **2**, pp.127-39, 1986.

Rationality: Social Meaning

A. McIntyre, "The Idea of a Social Science", in B. Wilson, ed., *Rationality*, New York: Harper and Row, 1970; reprinted in A. Ryan, ed., *The Philosophy of Social Explanation*, 1973.

P. Winch, "Understanding a Primitive Society", in *Ethics and Action*, London: RKP, 1972.

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D. Davidson, "On the Very Idea of a Conceptual Scheme", in his *Inquiries into Truth and Interpretation*, Oxford: OUP, 1983.

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C. Geertz, "From the Native Point of View", in *The Interpretation of Culture*, new York: Harper Collins, 1983.

D. Henderson, "The Principle of Charity and the Problem of Irrationality", *Synthese*, 73, pp.225-52, 1987; reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

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C. Taylor, "Rationality", in M. Hollis and S. Lukes, eds., *Rationality and Relativism*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1982.

Rationality: Rational Choice Theory

D. Davidson, "Actions, Reasons and Causes", in D. Davidson, *Essays on Actions and Events*, 1980.

J. Elster, "The Nature and Scope of Rational-Choice Explanation", in E. LePore and B. McLaughlin, eds., *Actions and Events: Perspectives on Donald Davidson*, Oxford: OUP, 1985. Reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

D. Henderson, "The Role and Limitations of Rationalizing Explanation in the Social Sciences", *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, **19**, pp. , 1989.

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Jon Elster, "Rationality, Morality and Collective Action", *Ethics*, 96, 135-55 (1985)

M. Hollis, "Rational Man and Social Science", in R. Harrison, ed., *Rational Action*, 1979.

D. Follesdal, "The Status of Rationality Assumptions in Interpretation and in the Explanation of Action", *Dialectica*, **36**, . Reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

D. Lewis, "Prisoners' Dilemma is a Newcomb Problem", *Philosophy and Public Affairs* **8**, pp.235-40, 1979. Reprinted in D. Lewis, *Philosophical Papers*, Vol.2, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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A. Sen, "Rational Fools", *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, **6**, pp.317-44, 1976. Reprinted in F. Hahn and M. Hollis, eds., *Philosophy and Economic Theory*.

C. Taylor, "What is Human Agency?", in C. Taylor, *Philosophical Papers Vol.1: Human Agency and Language*, 1985.

D. Parfit, "Prudence, Morality, and the Prisoner's Dilemma", in *Rational Choice*, ed. J. Elster, Blackwell (1986).

Rationality: The Sociology of Knowledge

D. Bloor and B. Barnes, "Relativism, Rationality, and the Sociology of Knowledge", in Hollis and Lukes, *Rationality and Relativism*

P. Kitcher, "The Division of Cognitive Labor", *J. Philosophy* 1990, p.5-22.

H. Latour and Woolgar, *Laboratory Life: the Social Construction of Scientific Facts*, Ch.2,3,4. (1979).

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M. Hesse, "The Strong Thesis of Sociology of Knowledge", in *Revolutions and Reconstructions*, 1980.

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R. Giere, *Explaining Science*, Ch.3, Chicago: CUP (1988).

I. Hacking, Ch.3, *The Social Construction of What?*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.

Individualism

J. Watkins, "Historical Explanations in the Social Sciences", *BJPS*, 8, pp.104-17, 1957; reprinted in M. Martin and L.C. McIntyre, eds. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1994.

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G. Macdonald and P. Pettit, Ch.3, *Semantics and the Social Sciences*, London: Routledge, 1981.

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R. Bhargava, *Individualism in Social Science*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992.

Values and Objectivity

M. Hesse, "Theory and Values in the Social Sciences", in *Revolutions and Reconstructions in the Philosophy of Science*, 1980.

D. Papinau,, "Facts, Values, and Ideologies", in *For Science in the Social Sciences*, 1978.

V. Pratt,, "Social Study and Objectivity", Ch.11, *The Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, London: Methuen, 1978.

H. Putnam, "Beyond the Fact/Value Dichotomy", in H. Putnam, *Realism With a Human Face*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990.

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C. Eigin, "The Relativity of Fact and the Objectivity of Value", in M. Krausz, ed., *Relativism*, 1989.

H. Longino, *Science as Social Knowledge: Values and Objectivity in Scientific Inquiry*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990, pp.62-82. Reprinted as "Values and Objectivity", in M. Curd and J. Cover, eds., *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*, New York: Norton and Co., 1998.

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R. Trigg, "Facts and Values", in *Understanding Social Science*, 1985.

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Social Facts and Objectivity

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A. Rosenberg, Ch.5, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*.

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T. Benton, *Philosophical Foundations of the Three Sociologies*, London: routledge, 1977.

P. Berger and T. Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality*, Pelican Books, 1984.

R. Bhaskar, Ch.3, *The Possibility of Naturalism: A Philosophical Critique of the Contemporary Human Sciences*, 2nd Ed., Harvester Press.

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W. Outhwaite, Ch.4,6,7, *New Philosophies of Social Science*, Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1987.

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