



The Nature of Social Science

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Questions about the nature of social-scientific theorizing abound: for example, can theories in the social sciences involve genuine laws, and what makes a regularity into a law? Can the social sciences make warranted predictions about future actions or relationships? Critique becomes a possible dimension of social science because the self-understandings that serve as a basis for the actions and relations of agents may themselves be systematically mistaken. That is, agents' self-understandings may be at variance with their situation, and they may characterize themselves and others (their motivations, their emotions, their beliefs, etc.) in ways that manifest ignorance or even self-deception.

Well, what kind of work do scientists do and what social skills or traits are needed to do this work? I've described the nature of scientific work below. People who work in science are curious about the universe and expect proof before they can accept anything as the best understanding of the universe so far. So being wrong about something is expected as you continue to learn by experiment and logic. They are cooperative, as they must be to repeat experiments and review the logic and experimental processes of others. It's not possible for science to advance unless the people working

The philosophy of social science can be described broadly as having two aims. First, it seeks to produce a rational reconstruction of social science. This entails describing the philosophical assumptions that underpin the practice of social inquiry, just as the philosophy of natural science seeks to lay bare the methodological and ontological assumptions that guide scientific investigation of natural phenomena.Â But he maintained that social scientists can and should keep their ethical judgment of peopleâ€™s values separate from their scientific analysis of the nature and effects of those values.

2. Critiques of Naturalism. Naturalism has been highly influential in the social sciences, especially since the middle in the twentieth century and particularly in the United States. Social science is the branch of science devoted to the study of societies and the relationships among individuals within those societies. The term was formerly used to refer to the field of sociology, the original "science of society", established in the 19th century. In addition to sociology, it now encompasses a wide array of academic disciplines, including anthropology, archaeology, economics, human geography, linguistics, management science, media studies, musicology, political science, psychology

Traditionally, the natural sciences, or "hard sciences," have been characterized by the use of the scientific method, which involves generating testable hypotheses in order to predict future outcomes and the ability to falsify these hypotheses. Recognizing the inherently social nature of scientific inquiry, social science has been able to apply its methodology to the practice of science itself—and in so doing has called into question the claims of science, both natural and social, to be objective. Cambridge Core - Social Theory - The Philosophy of Social Science. By exploring such questions, the reader is led to reflect upon the nature of scientific method in social science. Is the aim to explain the social world after a manner worked out for the natural world, or to understand the social world from within? Aa. Aa. Refine List. Classifications. Actions for selected content: Select all | Deselect all. The philosophy of social science can be described broadly as having two aims. First, it seeks to produce a rational reconstruction of social science. This entails describing the philosophical assumptions that underpin the practice of social inquiry, just as the philosophy of natural science seeks to lay bare the methodological and ontological assumptions that guide scientific investigation of natural phenomena. Addressing it inevitably leads to discussion of other key controversies in the field, such as the nature of explanation of social phenomena and the possibility of value-free social science. Sign in to Behavioural and Social Sciences at Nature Research. * Email Address. * Password. Keep me signed in. Lost your password? Resend confirmation. Or sign in via. Twitter. Register to Behavioural and Social Sciences at Nature Research. A hub for behavioural and social sciences authors and editors at Nature Research, and all other interested researchers. Register.