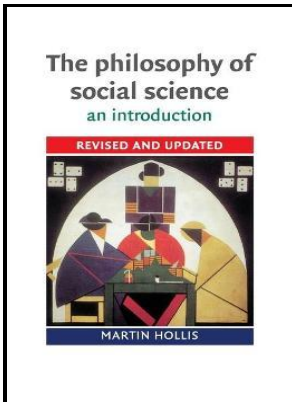


Philosophy of social science

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The problem then arises that there appear to be no laws in social science. As noted above, isolating the effects of particular variables in the social realm presents a formidable challenge to social scientists, owing to the difficulty — and sometimes impossibility — of conducting controlled experiments.

Philosophy of Social Studies Teaching and Learning

It might be held, for example, that sports clubs in working-class Britain exist because they give working class men and women a way of expending energy that would otherwise go into struggles against an exploitative system, thus undermining social stability.

Social sciences, philosophy of: the study of the logic and methods of the social sciences

According to this view, the laws of economics and politics discussed above are best understood as typical patterns produced by human interaction rather than genuine law-like regularities. Is the economy currently shrinking or growing? If we observe that an industrial strike is successful over an extended period of time, it is not sufficient to explain this circumstance by referring to the common interest that members of the union have in winning their demands. Since preferences reflect social norms, he finds that there is no non-circular way to do this.

Social Science, Philosophy of

Such explanations typically attempt to make sense of phenomena that are either universal or common at least to most human societies for example, birth, death, violence, order, domination, hierarchy.

Philosophy of Social Science

Following in this vein, the original critical theorists argued that a social scientist should not — and cannot — be a neutral observer of the social world.

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In doing so, we may come to see limitations, inconsistencies, contradictions, lacunae or even plain falsehoods associated with our own worldview as well as that of others. Intellectuals have disagreed about the extent to which the social sciences should mimic the methods used in the natural sciences.

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