

Philosophy of social science

Prentice-Hall - Philosophy of Social Sciences



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Philosophy of the Social Sciences: Philosophical Theory and Scientific Practice

The act of voting entails more than a particular physical movement, however. She may hold this belief about bureaucracies without knowing anything about the attitudes, values and so forth of particular individuals who work in them. He finds both conceptual and empirical problems with the standard view that explains cooperation in terms of an equilibrium reached in a repeated game played by self-interested players.

Philosophy of the Social Sciences: Philosophical Theory and Scientific Practice

This type of learning and thinking will help students make well-rounded and informed decisions, which is essentially the goal of teaching the Social Studies.

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They claim that the social world is different from the natural world in crucial respects that render the methods of natural science at best inadequate for enhancing understanding of the social world. Gorton Email: Alma College U. Note, as well, the scope that Merton gives theory.

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In addition, the types of laws of most importance to science are causal laws.

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In doing so it establishes the criteria by which normal and abnormal behavior is understood, and thereby regulates behavior — most importantly by getting people to regulate themselves. To be sure, social scientists have identified many social regularities, some of which they have even dubbed social laws. P philosophical Papers: Volume 2, Philosophy and the Human Sciences.

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Good traits like honesty can come in degrees, much like physical dispositions such as fragility, and yet play a role in the explanation of behavior.

Sometimes unintended consequences are unwelcome or even disastrous, as in the case of the so-called tragedy of the commons.

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Paradoxically, to increase their take over the long run, fishermen must submit to limits on how much fish they can remove from the sea. Description: Some have argued that the social sciences cannot explain events by causes because they cannot capture all the complex contributing factors, because there is no material constitution to social facts like marriage or money, or because human reason is necessarily involved. Morally neutral or morally engaged? But if science has the goal of providing the means for explanation, prediction, and intervention, then social science to be science must also be able to do this.

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