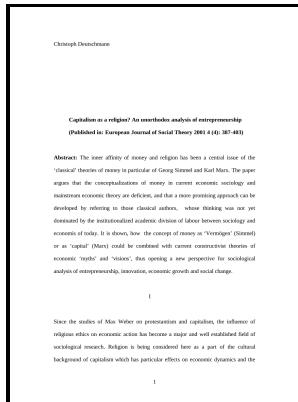


Central currents in social theory

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SAGE Books

If critical social inquiry is inquiry into the basis of cooperative practices as such, it takes practical inquiry one reflective step further. The minipublic is then an institutionally constructed intermediary, although it could act in such a way as to become an agent for the creation of a larger public with normative powers.

Social Theory

Rather than only providing a set of explicit principles of justification and institutional decision rules, democracy is also a particular structure of free and open communication. This interaction initiates a process of democratic renewal in which publics organise and are organised by new emerging institutions with a different alternative set of political possibilities. Its domain is inquiry into the normative dimension of social activity, in particular how actors employ their practical knowledge and normative attitudes from complex perspectives in various sorts of contexts.

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As a social fact that is not uniform in its consequences, globalization cannot be reconstructed from the internal perspective of any single democratic political community, it requires a certain kind of practically oriented knowledge about the possibilities of realising norms and ideals in praxis and is thus a theory of democratization, of creating a political space where none now exists. However entrenched, the social fact of globalization still remains open to democratic reconstruction, should creative reinterpretation of democracy come about. Dominant groups maintain social order through manipulation and control.

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In disputes about interpretation, Critical Theorists have insisted that social science not make a forced choice between explanation and understanding. Seen in this way, the two dominant and opposed approaches to social science adopt quite different perspectives. The latter approach has been developed by Habermas and is now favored by Critical Theorists.

Theories & Practice Models Used in Social Work

A postmodernists purpose, therefore, is to achieve understanding through observation, rather than data collection, using both micro and macro level analyses.

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