

Translation process

The English texts on this page have been machine-translated. The source language is German. The German texts are translated into English using the software tools DeepL and ChatGPT4. The texts translated into English are checked with Google Translator and Microsoft Bing Translator. If the meaning of the English texts matches the meaning of the German texts, the machine translation process is complete.

Lecture

Reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema

Berlin, June 2024

Peter Hollitzer



The text "Reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema", author: Peter Hollitzer, is published under the Creative Commons 4.0 International (CC BY-ND) licence. You can find the full licence text at: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Lecture: Reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema

Hello and welcome to the lecture reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema.

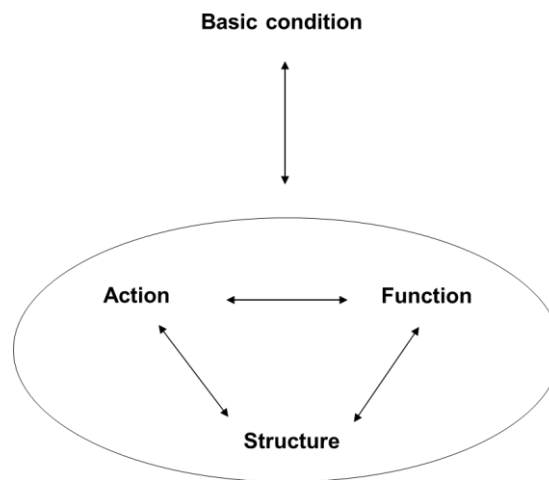
My name is Peter Hollitzer and I am the development manager of the University Schema.

This lecture will shed light on the meaning of the Universal Schemas.

I will begin this lecture with a philosophical thought on the interpretation of universality.

Universality only takes on meaning if it does not exclude possibilities and encompasses the entire phenomenal world.

The word 'Universal Schema' is not a commonly known term. I will therefore explain it first.



The Universal Schema is a simple model of thought with which we can represent and explain the interrelationships of phenomena.

It is obvious that the quality of the explanation of phenomena depends on our experience and knowledge.

The Universal Schema does not create truth. It creates clarity.

If there is even one phenomenon to which the Universal Schema cannot be applied, then the Universal Schema is wrong.

I will now briefly present the essential features of the universal schema.

The approaches underlying the definitions of the aspects of the Universal Schemas structure, action, function and basic conditions are banal:

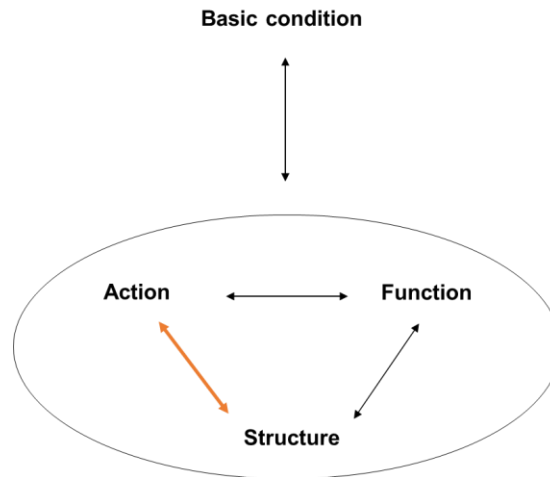
Structures generate actions. Actions are periods of time in which something happens. Functions explain why an action happens.

General conditions shape the interrelation of structure, action and function.

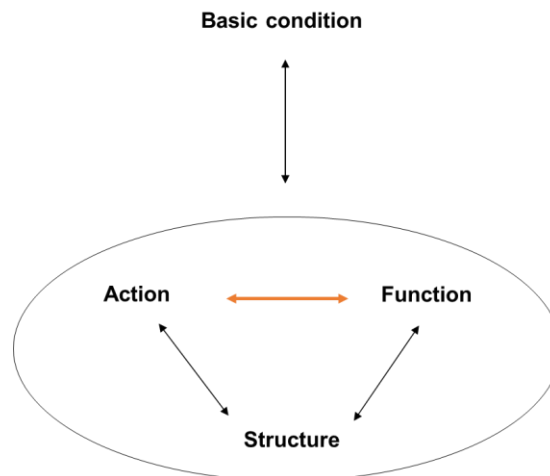
Four plausible hypotheses justify the structure of the Universal Schemas.

The first hypothesis is the structure-action hypothesis, which states that a structure generates an action and that the execution of an action is dependent on the structure.

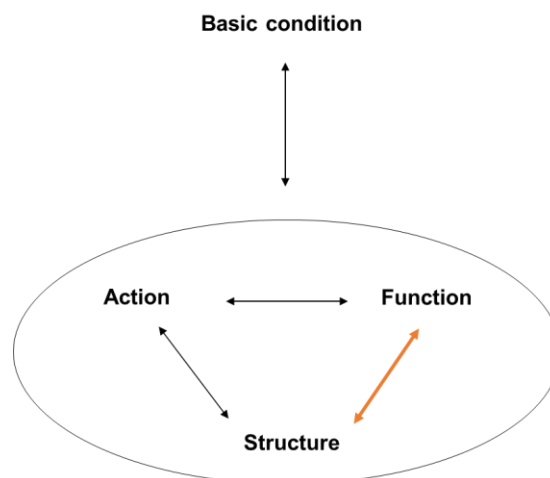
Lecture: Reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema



The second hypothesis is the actions-function hypothesis, which states that an action causes a function and that the function explains why the action happens and shows the possibilities and facts created by that action.

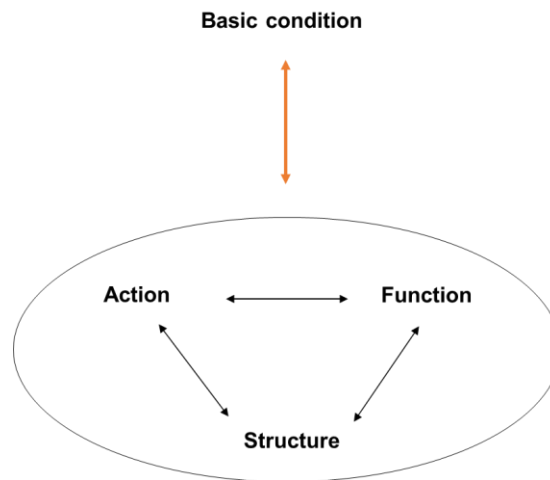


The third hypothesis is the function-structure hypothesis, which states that the explanation of why an action happens establishes the meaning of a structure and that the meaning of a structure is tied to function.



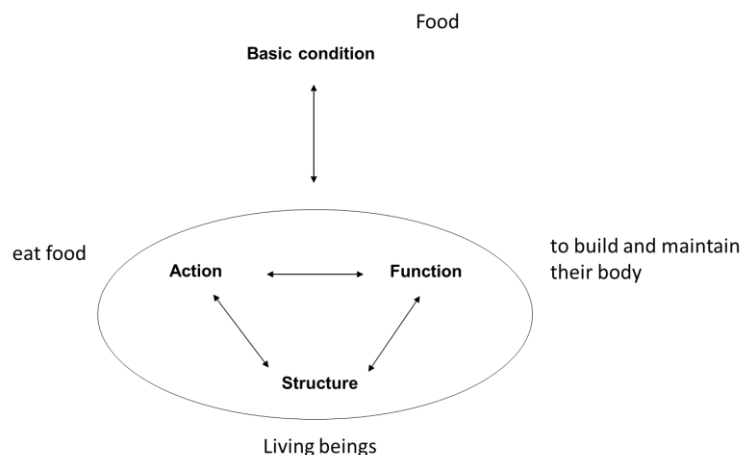
Lecture: Reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema

The fourth hypothesis is the basic conditions-interaction hypothesis. It states that the general conditions and the interactions of structure, effect and function are mutually dependent.



A simple example shows how the Universal Schemas works in practice.

The example is as follows: Living beings take in food to maintain their bodies.



Living beings are assigned to the structure because living beings produce actions.

One action that living beings produce is food intake. Therefore, food intake is assigned to actions.

The reason why living beings need to ingest food is assigned to the function: to build and maintain their body.

The prerequisite for food intake is that sufficient food is available.

I will now say a few words about the development process of the Universal Schemas.

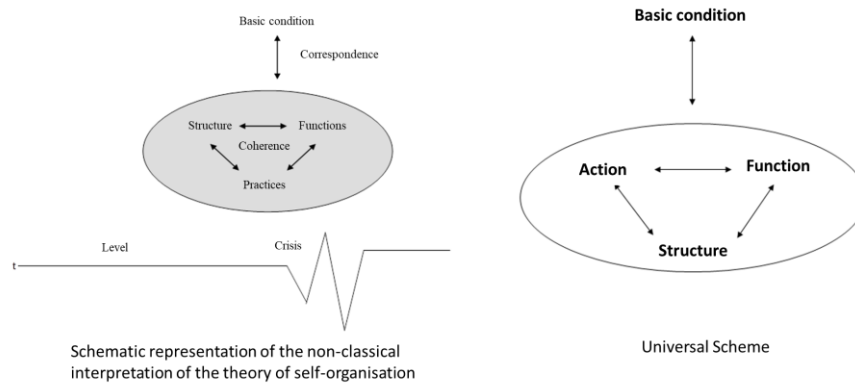
Around 20 years ago, I studied under Prof Dr Walter Dürr at the Free University of Berlin.

Prof Dürr held the Chair of Business Education at the Department of Education.

His research interests centred on the work of Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker with the aim of applying theories of self-direction to the field of education.

Lecture: Reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema

As part of this research, Prof. Dürr developed a model that schematically represents the concept of self-direction in the context of the theory of self-organisation.



This model showed me what a Universal Schema could look like and inspired me to develop one myself.

The appeal of solving this task was to transform the utopian idea of a single universal cognitive model that encompasses all phenomenal world events into a comprehensive model, which manifests in the universal schema.

The development process took around 20 years and was an open discussion process from the outset, during which I grew into the role of development manager of the Universal Schemas. In 2011, I wrote the book 'Die globale Denkgestalt - Grundriss eines Universal Schemas zur vereinheitlichten Darstellung von Prozessen', which I presented at the Leipzig Book Fair in 2012.

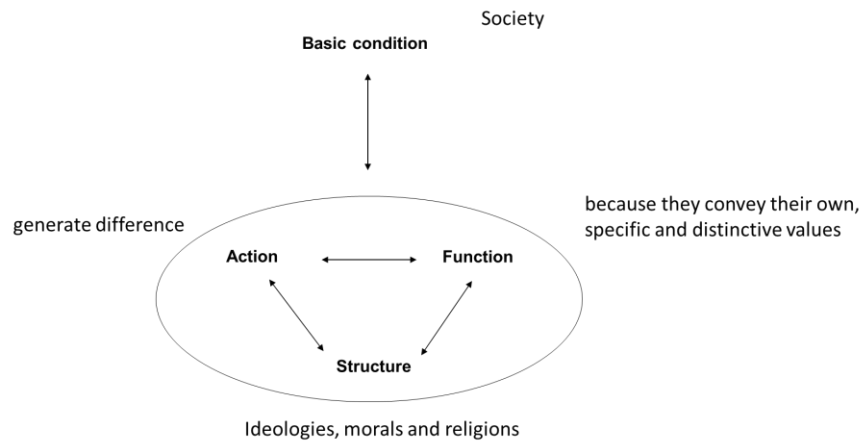
The publication of the book, the lectures and workshops have led to people from different backgrounds and educational levels taking part in discussions on the development of Universal Schemas.

It is therefore not possible to identify the ideas of individual people in the Universal Schema.

When I was a member of the Pirate Party, I raised the question of whether it is possible to make political demands on the basis of a universal way of thinking.

The discussions have shown that this is hardly possible, as political demands are often justified by ideological, moral or religious values, and thus come to make sense.

Lecture: Reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema



Ideologies, moral concepts and religions each convey their own specific and distinctive values and in this way create difference.

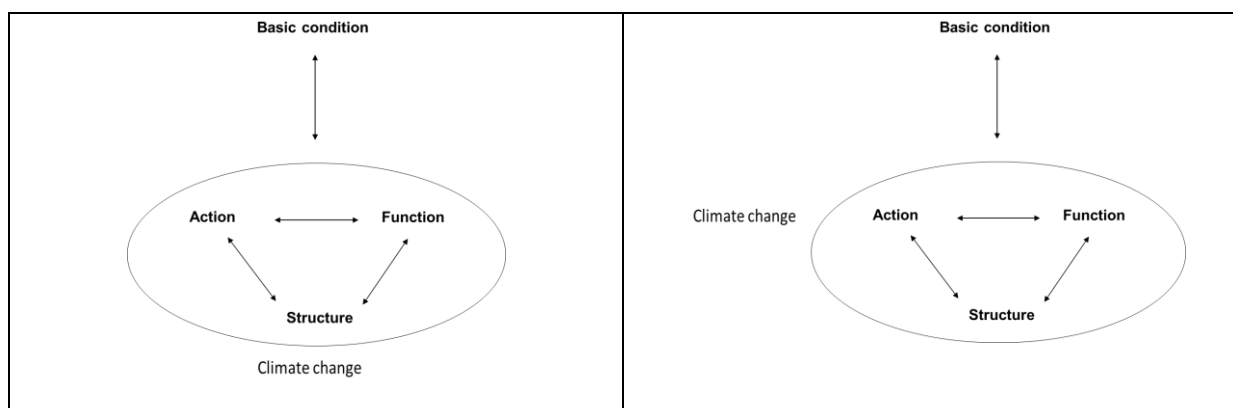
The Universal Schema does not convey values and therefore does not create difference. It therefore has no ideological, moral or religious significance and cannot be instrumentalised for political or other purposes.

The universal schema can be used to illustrate and explain differences between different ideologies, moral concepts and religions.

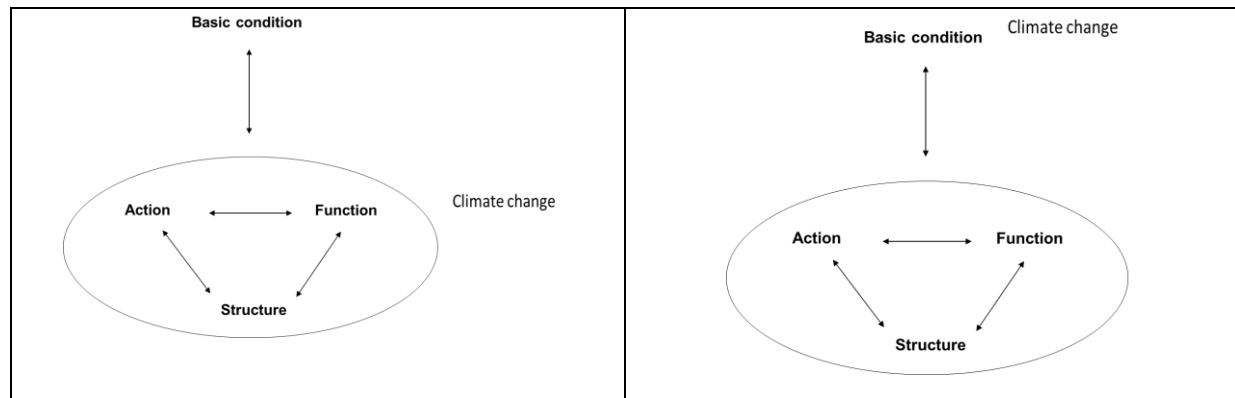
I would like to point out that the Universal Schema is not exclusive and can be used by anyone. Therefore, the use of the Universal Schemas as an instrument for exercising power is ruled out as far as can be recognised today.

Now I come to the possibilities of trialling the Universal Schemas.

Using the phenomenon of 'climate change' as an example, I will show what a possible presentation concept could look like that discusses 'climate change' from the four perspectives of the Universal Schemas.



Lecture: Reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema

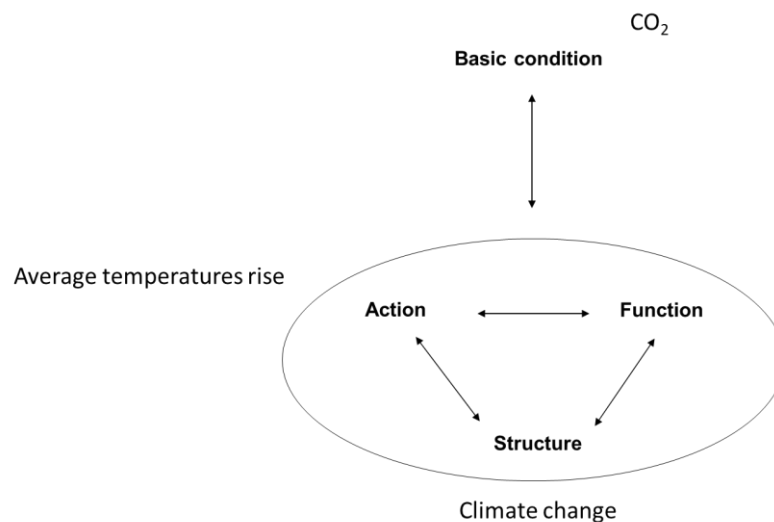


This discussion is based on questions that arise from the possible assignments of the term 'climate change' to the aspects of the Universal Schemas.

I am not an expert in the field of climate change. So I am not analysing the individual aspects of climate change, but demonstrating how knowledge about climate change can be systematically structured using the Universal Schemas.

The quality of the presentation and explanation of climate change depends on the objectives and knowledge of those modelling climate change with the Universal Schema.

When climate change is assigned to the structure, the following question can be asked.



What actions are generated by the structure 'climate change'?

The answer to this question is to describe the actions that climate change generates. For example, one action may be the increase in average temperatures.

The function explains why something is happening. You can ask the question why average temperatures are rising and what possibilities and facts arise as a result.

Lecture: Reflecting and philosophising about the Universal Schema

The answer to this question is the description of the events and actions that take place in the action 'increase in average temperatures'.

What basic conditions shape this interrelation?

One hypothesis is that CO₂ influences the climate.

We can assign the term 'climate change' to all four aspects of the Universal Schemas.

If 'climate change' is assigned to the action aspect, the following questions can be asked.

What structures generate the action 'climate change' and what function does this action trigger?

Which basic conditions shape this interrelation?

The following questions can be asked if climate change is assigned to the function aspect:

What structure creates an action that triggers the function 'climate change'?

What basic conditions shape this interrelation?

If climate change is assigned to the framework aspect, the following question can be asked:

What relationship between structure, process and function does the framework "climate change" shape?

In the same way, we can describe and explain all phenomena that we observe or perceive.

We can only say what knowledge value a universal representation of phenomena will have once we have had the relevant experience.

I now come to the end of my lecture

The development of the Universal Schemas was an unprecedented endeavour involving many people.

The demands on the development of the Universal Schemas have been met.

The Universal Schema is simple and it is easy to use.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise once again that we - all of us, as far as I can see - have no experience of using the Universal Schemas, because there has never been anything like it before.

Basically, we are all starting from scratch, which makes the Universal Schema a project among equals, with people who are completely different

A detailed explanation of the Universal Schema with application examples can be found on the website www.universalschema.info.

Thank you for your attention.