

Sociological Consciousness as a Cognitive Process

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BASIC TERMS DEFINED

❖ Sociological Consciousness

The definitions of reality that order and legitimate the sociologist's investigation of the social world

❖ Cognitive Process

Cognitive stages that form an organic unity capable of producing knowledge (Lonergan)

Experiencing (Be attentive)

Understanding (Be intelligent)

Judgment (Be reasonable)

Action (Be responsible)

COGNITIONAL STRUCTURE (I): PETER L. BERGER

❖ Level of Experiencing

Being attentive to the stories behind the facades

Being attentive to what is going on beyond the official explanations

Being attentive to things as they do not seem to be

❖ Level of Understanding

Insights and Formulations

Society as Puppet Theatre

“Grooves” of social life
Social Control System
Institutional Constraints
Ideology and Vested Interests

Cooperating in our Imprisonment

Internalization of identity conferred on us by our reference groups

Assertions of Freedom

Rejection of “Bad Faith”
“Grooves” not inevitable
Role distance, Working the system, sabotage, activism
Moments of Ecstasy

❖ Level of Judgment

Juxtaposition of formulations (theories)

Durkheim (Facticity of social life)

Weber (Subjective meaning)

Schutz (Inter-subjective reality)

Gehlen (institutionalization)

Sartre (Bad faith) and Heidegger (Dasein)

Marx (ideology and vested interests)

Omissions

Psychology as Extra-Sociological

❖ Level of Action

Ethical Posture

Value neutrality of the sociologist

Sociologist as debunker and unmasker of all groups

Sociological enlightenment regarding the machinery of social life

Sociology's contribution to human freedom

COGNITIONAL STRUCTURE (II): HARRY C. BREDEMEIER

❖ LEVEL OF EXPERIENCING

Being attentive to human actions

Being attentive to the consequences of human actions

Being attentive to how human actions are shaped by cultural scripts

❖ LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING

Insights and Formulations

Laws Pertaining to Human Action

Decision variables and internal controls

Laws Pertaining to Power and Success

Power variables

Laws Pertaining to Societal Requirements

Iron Law of Systems

Cultural Requirements for Human Welfare

Laws Pertaining to Human Freedom and Responsibility

Laws Pertaining to the Preciousness of Persons

❖ LEVEL OF JUDGMENT

Juxtaposition of formulations (theories)

Rational Choice Theory (Homans)

Systems Theory (Ackoff and Emery)

Action theory (Powers)

Power theory (Kuhn)

Ethical Theory (Rawls)

Omissions

Spirituality

❖ LEVEL OF ACTION

Consequences for societies based on individualistic principles

Consequences for societies based on humanistic principles

Human choice and responsibility

CONCLUDING REMARKS

