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Variations of Constructivism – a fresh look

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Google counts of relevant terms

about...

1,470,000 Constructivism

458,000 Constructionism

294,000 Social Constructivism

283,000 Social Constructionism

154,000 Radical Constructivism

16,000 Sozialkonstruktivismus

742 Sozialkonstruktionismus

Tenets of realists

Realists:

- A reality exists independent of the observer.
- This reality can be discovered and understood exactly as it is.
- This reality can be experienced and shared by everyone in precisely the same way.

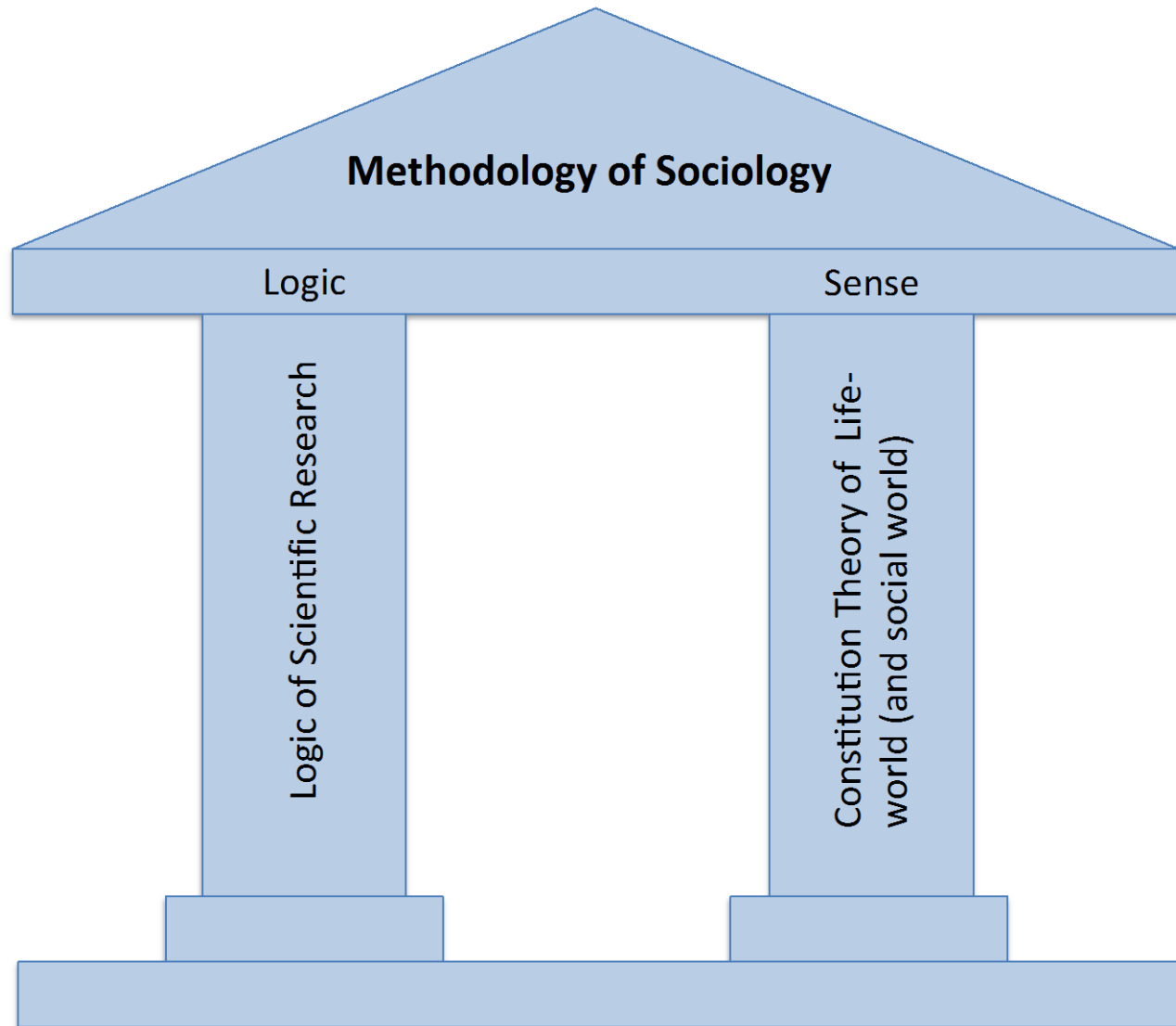
Tenets of realists and constructivists

Realists:

- A reality exists independent of the observer.
- This reality can be discovered and understood exactly as it is.
- This reality can be experienced and shared by everyone in precisely the same way.

Constructivists:

- A reality is constructed by the observer.
- This reality can only be explored within the scope of the observer's constructions.
- Observers have different perspectives and construct different realities.



Alfred Schütz

- Constitutive difference between natural and social phenomena
- The social world is meaningfully constructed and pre-interpreted
- Conclusions:
 - We need a constitution theory of the life-world (the second pillar of the methodology of the social sciences)
 - Postulate of adequacy (sense adequacy, not causal adequacy)

Variations of Constructivism

- Karin Knorr Cetina (1989) distinguished three major forms of constructivism:
 - Social Constructivism (“Sozialkonstruktivismus”) of Berger & Luckmann
 - Cognitivist Constructivism (or Radical Constructivism) of Glasersfeld, Maturana and Varela, and others)
 - Empirical Program of Constructivism (Ethnomethodology, Social Studies of Science)

Versions of realism in Qualitative Research

“critical” realism (Archer et al., 1998; Bhaskar, 1989; Campbell, 1974, 1988; Cook & Campbell, 1979), “experiential” realism (Lakoff, 1987), “constructive” (and, later, “perspectival”) realism (Giere, 1999), “subtle” realism (Hammersley, 1992a), “emergent” realism (Henry, Julnes, & Mark, 1998; Mark, Henry, & Julnes, 2000), “natural” realism (Putnam, 1999), “innocent” realism (Haack, 1998, 2003), and “agential” realism (Barad, 2007); Wimsatt (2007) didn’t give his approach to realism a formal name, but used the phrase “multi-perspectival realism” (p. 12) to describe this.

Social constructivism as paradigm?

- What is the antipode? What are our common epistemological and ontological assumptions?
- Berger and Luckmann's 'Social Construction' as basic framework?
- 'Paradigms' in the social sciences
- The problem of 'integration' and 'synthesis'
- Where are we going?