

February 2, 2006
Sociology 0150
Notes by Earl Hylton

What's the subjective experience of reading Durkheim?

Marx

-Critical

-Often makes analogies through argument,

Rather than specific examples

Technical

Metaphors

Abstract

Engaged/political

Specific interlocutor

Polemic

Philosophical

Durkheim

- Personal
- Apolitical
- Examples, first person, personal experience, everyday life
- Academic/disciplinary
- Concrete
- "Open Minded"
- Deals with possible exceptions and counter examples
- * Easier to read without feeling defensive, sociological disciplinary sense

Marx	Durkheim
Engaged yet technical	Academic yet lots of examples
philosophical	Sociological in the disciplinary sense
political	apolitical

Big idea??? Of Durkheim's Rules of Sociological Method-> There is a link between theory and method.

- What a "thing" is
- What a "social fact" is
- Reciprocity of "social forces" and "social agents" pg.112

- Scientific method
- Concept of a social fact

Types of Epistemology-

1. Standpoint
2. objectivist
3. subjectivist

*Durkheim is an objectivist- You understand things from the outside and take an unbiased view on topic

Objectivist Definition- You understand/know things from the outside, and take an unbiased view on the topic.

Sandra Harding/ 3 Elements embedded in how we do research.

1. Epistemology- a theory of knowledge
2. Method- technique for gathering and analyzing information
3. Methodology- a choice of how to use methods/techniques
 - >->works out/ tells you how to get from an epistemology to a method

3 Points of Durkheim

1. Domain of sociology (the social)
2. Methodology of sociology (objectivity; treating facts as ‘things’)
3. Logic and Argument of analysis

Social Fact

Exist outside the consciousness of the individual.-->>>pg.112

Are invested with a coercive power

A “thing”---→ We can’t get inside it or change it by thinking about them.

Empiricism} Facts cannot be discovered without hands on experiments.

Social Facts

Positivism

***Social facts definition- see pg. 117**

Suigensis- of its own gender;unique in its characteristics

Idea that can’t be consumed by a larger concept

Can only explain social facts with social facts;not psychological for example

*Top of pg 116

Social Facts

-social “roles”

-traditions

- law, morality, beliefs, customs, fashion