

Jaycanna Day

Soc 0150-Class Notes

From: February 7, 2006

Opening question: Is Durkheim a methodological Marxist?

Class exercise: room split into two, one half arguing yes, the other half arguing no. We switched papers with someone from the other side to critique their argument. As a class we listed the criteria for Marxist methodology.

Criteria for a methodological Marxist

- specificity: in audience, unit of analysis, goal (revolution)
- historicism
- critical
- problem solving logic
- dialectical: elements are an irrepressible force and an immovable object;
contradiction
- materialist: reality precedes ideas
- unit of analysis: group, institution; class analysis; holism, systemic
- structuralist: seeks to explore relationships within which meaning is produced
- subjectivist/standpoint epistemology

*keep in mind-complexity of theory and categories are not mutually exclusive

meta-conversation

Pedagogy: (for learning in soc 0150)

Principle (criteria), Example, Practice

* reading to understand and compare theorists relative to each other *

YES- Durkheim is a Marxist

-both see relationship between state and civil society determines what happens at the state level

-tradition/history, structure/system, collectivity

-both as holists in same "systemic" sense

Sui generis (advice to google): cannot reduce

-social fact explained on same level as event/thing occurs

(micro/micro, macro/macro)

-both as materialists

-social facts as things-objectivist/materialist

NO- Durkheim Not as a Marxist

-as an objectivist vs. subjectivist

-academic vs. philosophical

-general vs. specific: not taking a specific position, but an approach to examining

-more concern with institutional agency

For next readings: Keep In Mind: The BIG IDEA

-use as a lens for change over time (sp. division of labor), identifying elements

2 more things...

*concept sheet for Durkheim passed out

* types of explanations...

Theoretical/Causal Explanation:

	Mechanistic (how the parts work)	Functional (what action does for system as a whole) not usually	Intentional (intention of actors matters)
Physics	paradigmatic		No
Biology	Yes	paradigmatic	No
Soc Sci	Yes	problematic	paradigmatic