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…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theoretical/Causal Explanation:</th>
<th>Mechanistic (how the parts work)</th>
<th>Functional (what action does for system as a whole)</th>
<th>Intentional (intention of actors matters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>paradigmatic</td>
<td>not usually</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>paradigmatic</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soc Sci</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>problematic</td>
<td>paradigmatic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>