

Social Constructionism

- Assumption of impermanence
- No “laws”...social realities not fixed
- Terms not derived from “what is there”
- No such thing as “immaculate perception”....saturated in values, conventions, theories, time and place
- Modes of explanation: derived in relationship
- Words create worlds, they are not mirrors
- All social action open to multiple meanings
- Theory is language & the double hermeneutic
- Alterations in linguistic practice are powerful

SC Inquiry: An Invitation and Adventure

- *Invitation beyond divisions*: theory-practice; fact-values; free will-determinism; exogenic-endogenic
- *Expansion in the task* of social theory: critique; deconstruction; creative construction
- *Methodological advance*: re-framing empiricist methods; knowing as meaning-making; social process *as* method; beyond arid and inert writing; reflexive awareness; theoretical activism
- *Paradigm dialogue*: across disciplines; metatheoretical
- *Human values* surge to the fore
- Generative theory-building/ scholarship of transformation

An Example: Cultural Consequences of Deficit Discourse

- Social theory: pictorial or pragmatic?*
- Reification and fallacy of misplaced concreteness
- Language of mental deficit*
- Social hierarchy*
- Community erosion
- Self-enfeeblement
- *Growth of professions* and mental illness
- *Spiraling cycle*: deficit translation; cultural dissemination; cultural/popular construction; vocabulary expansion; profession expansion; no exit?
- Some statistics....

The Birth of Ai

- Epistemology of *life*
- The truth of human freedom must count
- Topic choice and the “scientific” construction of social reality
- Multiple voices, social process as method--more voices, more theory, as cultural resource
- From cogito ergo sum to *communicamus ergo sum*
- A time to dare in scholarship
- Valuing is creating; creating is knowing
- Our inquiry must be the change we want to see in the world