Eleonora Montuschi

"An invaluable resource for teaching philosophy of social science at all levels. The Objects of Social Science provides a valuable addition to the Philosophy of the Social Sciences. It offers insightful coverage of the fundamental debates in the field and, uniquely, addresses the central methodological debates in each of the main social science disciplines."
John Dupré, University of Exeter

"An excellent study, informed by both analytic and Continental approaches, by both philosophical theory and social science practice."
Nancy Cartwright, London School of Economics

DESCRIPTION

The Philosophy of the Social Sciences has become one of the battlegrounds of contemporary theory and analysis. At the core of the debate is the central question about the objective capacity of a range of disciplines not explicitly regarded as scientific.

The Philosophy of Social Science employs a rich and complex approach to its object, an approach which explores methodological, epistemological, metaphysical and logical questions. How can such a diverse approach attempt objectivity when faced with the complexity of what is studied, namely the social world. What is the object of social scientific investigation?

The Objects of Social Science presents a clear and structured analysis of the Philosophy of Social Science across each of its main disciplines: Anthropology, Sociology, History, Economics and Geography. Presenting a range of examples from specific social sciences, the book both identifies the practical and theoretical procedures involved in the identification of the object and, at the same time, raises questions about the very objectivity of these procedures in analysing the object. The book will prove invaluable to students across the Social Sciences as a guide to the theories and methodologies which underpin their disciplines.

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