

# M.Res Philosophy of Social Science: Reading List

The philosophy of social science programme investigates the claims to truth, fact and meaning made by scientists and social scientists. Each week the ideas are introduced in the form of a debate, allowing students to explore different questions of meaning from within the dialogues that have posed them. Whilst historical material will be used, each debate will be brought into the confines of current social science concerns. The aim of the course is to provoke in students a critical awareness of any claims to knowledge made. As part of each session, the potential implications for conducting research in management will be introduced and discussed; both in terms of the bases that research approaches might adopt along with the political and ethical implications of specific methodologies.

## **Core reading:**

Please read:

- Chalmers, A. F. (1999) *What is this thing called science?* Open University Press.

And one of the following (or at least relevant chunks of it):

- Little, D. (1991) *Varieties of Social Explanation*. Westview Press,
- Blaikie, N. (1993) *Approaches to Social Enquiry*. Polity Press.

## **Part 1: Philosophical positions**

### **What is philosophy?**

- Hollis, M. (1994) *The Philosophy of Social Science : an introduction*. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press. Ch 1 and 2
- Webb, K. (1995) *An introduction to problems in the philosophy of social sciences*, London: Pinter.
- *Epistemology*: <http://www.ship.edu/%7Ecgboree/epist.html>
- *What is philosophy? A Tour*: <http://www.onu.edu/a+s/philosophy/philos.html>

### **Rationalism -v- empiricism**

- M Hollis *The Philosophy of Social Science*, Ch 3
- von Wright, G. H. (1957), *The Logical Problem of Induction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Ch 4
- Karl Popper (1999) *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, London, Routledge
- Elster, J. (1989) *Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Benton, T. (2001) *The Philosophy of Social Science*, Ch 1&2
- *Theory of Knowledge*: <http://www.philosophyonline.co.uk/tok/tokhome.htm>
- *Rationalism and Empiricism*: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Philosophy/UG/Studyguide/rat&emp.html>

## **Constructivism -v- Realism**

- Outhwaite, W. (1987) *New Philosophies of Social Science – Realism, Hermeneutics and Critical Theory*. Macmillan Education.
- T Benton (2001) *The Philosophy of Social Science*, Ch 7
- Constructivism: [http://carbon.cudenver.edu/~mryder/itc\\_data/constructivism.html](http://carbon.cudenver.edu/~mryder/itc_data/constructivism.html)
- Epistemological Constructivism: <http://pespmc1.vub.ac.be/CONSTRUC.html>
- Lakatos, I. (1970) 'Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes' In I. Lakatos and A. Musgrave (eds.) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge University Press.
- Berger, P. L. (1984) *The Social Construction of Reality : a treatise in the sociology of knowledg*. Harmondsworth : Penguin.

## **Positivism -v- Pragmatism**

- Goodman, R. B. (1995) *Pragmatism – A contemporary reader* London: Routledge
- Giddens, A. (ed.) (1974) *Positivism and Sociology*. London : Heinemann Educational
- *Pragmatism archive*: <http://www.pragmatism.org/>

## **Phenomenology and post-modernism**

- Richard Rorty (1991) 'Postmodern Bourgeois Liberalism' in *Objectivity, relativism and truth*, New York: Cambridge University Press.
- John Hassard (1993) 'Postmodernism and Organizational Analysis: an Overview' in J Hasard and M Parker Ed.s *Postmodernism and Organizations*, London: Sage
- B Latour (1999) 'Do you believe in reality?' in *Pandora's Hope*, Harvard: Harvard University Press
- T Benton (2001) *The Philosophy of Social Science*, Ch 9
- T Eagleton (1996) *The Illusions of Postmodernism*, London: Routledge

## **The Linguistic Turn**

- Pleasants, N. (1999) *Wittgenstein and the idea of a critical social theory : a critique of Gidden*. London: Routledge.
- Richard Rorty (1989) 'The Contingency of Language' in *Contingency, irony and solidarity*, New York: Cambridge University Press.
- C. Taylor (1971) 'Interpretation and the Sciences of Man', *Review of Metaphysics*, 25: 3-51. (Also published in C. Taylor (1985) *Philosophy and the Human Sciences: Philosophical Papers 2*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Ch 1.)
- A Giddens, *New Rules of Sociological Method*, Ch 1
- Ayer, A.J. *Language, Truth, and Logic*. New York, Dover, 1952.
- Winch, P (1958) *The Idea of a Social Science and its Relation to Philosophy*, London: RKP

## **Part 2: Philosophical approaches**

### **Institutionalism and new institutionalism**

- Williamson (1996) *The Mechanisms of Governance*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- H Simon (1991) 'Organizations and markets' *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 5: 25-44
- W Powell (ed.) (1991) *New institutionalism in organizational analysis*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press

## **Ethics and organizational control**

- MacIntyre, A (1999) *A Short History of Ethics*, London: Routledge: Ch.s 2-3
- Critchley, S (1999) *The Ethics of Deconstruction*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press
- Parker, M (2003) 'Ethics, Politics and Organizing', *Organization*, 10 (2): 187-203

## **Aesthetic views of organization**

- Ridley, A and Neil, A (eds) (2002) *Arguing about Art: Contemporary Philosophical Debates*, London: Routledge
- Guillen, M (1997) 'Scientific management's lost aesthetic: Architecture, organization, and the Taylorized beauty of the mechanical'. *Administrative Science Quarterly* 42/4: 682-715
- Taylor, S (2000) 'Aesthetic knowledge in academia: Capitalist pigs at the academy of management' *Journal of Management Inquiry* 9/3: 304-328
- Linstead, S and Hopfl, H (2000) *The Aesthetics of Organization*, London: Sage

## **Stakeholder theory**

- Thomas Donaldson; Lee E. Preston (1995) 'The stakeholder theory of the corporation: concepts, evidence, and implications', *Academy of Management Review*, 20 (1): 65-91
- Freeman, E, Liedtka, J 'Stakeholder Capitalism and the Value Chain', *European Management Journal*, 15 (3): 286-296
- M Parker (ed.) (1998) *Ethics and Organizations*, London: Sage
- Werhane, P, Freeman, E (1999) 'Business Ethics: The State of the Art', *International Journal of Management Reviews*, March: 1-16

## **Classic books to which we (and many others) refer**

- D Hume (1748) *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.
- I Kant (1781) *Critique of Pure Reason*
- E Husserl (1907) *The Idea of Phenomenology*
- B Russell (1912) *The Problems of Philosophy*
- L Wittgenstein (1952) *Philosophical Investigations*
- W van O Quine (1953) *From a Logical Point of View*
- JL Austin (1962) *How to Do Things with Words*.
- K Popper (1965) *Conjectures and Refutations*
- C Hempel (1966) *Philosophy of Natural Science*
- T. Kuhn's (1970) *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
- J Derrida (1972) *Words and Things*
- P Feyerabend (1975) *Against Methode*
- B van Fraassen (1980) *The Scientific Image*