

**SOCIOLOGICAL
THEORY**

**Pretence and
Possibility**

Keith Dixon

Monographs in Social Theory edited by Arthur Brittan

Sociological Theory Pretence And Possibility

J.G. Merguior



Sociological Theory Pretence And Possibility:

Sociological Theory Keith Dixon, 1973 *Sociological Theory (RLE Social Theory)* Keith Dixon, 2020-07-26 Most professional sociologists claim that sociology is or ought to be a theoretical science Keith Dixon argues here that this claim is formulated in such a way that a proper evaluation of its status is extremely difficult and that the contingent objections to the possibility of sociological theorizing are sufficiently strong for such activity to be labelled as pretence He believes that pretence to the theoretical is a hindrance to the development of sociology proper It devalues significant empirical work by giving status to research findings only in so far as they relate to often arbitrarily conceived theoretical concerns it leads to a systematic neglect of the historical dimension in the explanation of human behaviour and it sets up ideals of explanation whose pursuit leads to sterility frustration and even intellectual corruption Keith Dixon emphasizes however that in attacking the contingent possibility of theory he does not mean to devalue empirical expertise analytic skill or the exercise of disciplined speculative intelligence The argument of his book is that intelligence can only flourish when released from the constraints of attempting to justify the unjustifiable *Sociological Theory (Routledge Revivals)* Keith Dixon, 2013-12-19 First published in 1973 this book is concerned with the question of whether Sociology is or ought to be a theoretical science Keith Dixon argues that the pretence to the theoretical is a hindrance to the development of the field of Sociology which devalues significant empirical work by giving status to research findings only in so far as they relate to often arbitrary theoretical concerns Dixon addresses the historical dimension in the explanation of human nature and rational action This reissue will be of particular value to students and academics with an interest in the empirical and theoretical methodology applied to Sociological research *Sociological Theory (RLE Social Theory)* Keith Dixon, 2014-08-04 Most professional sociologists claim that sociology is or ought to be a theoretical science Keith Dixon argues here that this claim is formulated in such a way that a proper evaluation of its status is extremely difficult and that the contingent objections to the possibility of sociological theorizing are sufficiently strong for such activity to be labelled as pretence He believes that pretence to the theoretical is a hindrance to the development of sociology proper It devalues significant empirical work by giving status to research findings only in so far as they relate to often arbitrarily conceived theoretical concerns it leads to a systematic neglect of the historical dimension in the explanation of human behaviour and it sets up ideals of explanation whose pursuit leads to sterility frustration and even intellectual corruption Keith Dixon emphasizes however that in attacking the contingent possibility of theory he does not mean to devalue empirical expertise analytic skill or the exercise of disciplined speculative intelligence The argument of his book is that intelligence can only flourish when released from the constraints of attempting to justify the unjustifiable ***The Sociology of Belief (Routledge Revivals)*** Keith Dixon, 2013-12-19 First published in 1980 this book presents a study of knowledge and the patterns of social and scientific thought Keith Dixon argues that traditional and contemporary formulations of the sociology of knowledge involve a series of fallacies and the

claim to reduce knowledge to ideology devalues the role of reasoned inquiry Chapters discuss such areas as the theories of Marx and Mannheim the sociology of science and of religious belief With a detailed conclusion analysing the foundations and limits of the sociology of knowledge this reissue will provide an interesting and useful analysis for students of Sociology

Sociology, Phenomenology and Marxian Analysis Barry Smart, 2013-10-15 Sociology is an established academic discipline but there has been continuing debate over its status as a science and the nature of its subject matter This led to the emergence of a phenomenological sociology and to critiques of positivist sociology This critical reappraisal of the relevance of Marxian analysis for a science of society shows how these developments within sociology have had their counterpart in Marxism The author analyses the status of Marx's work and the Marxist tradition in sociology He focuses upon those concerns which are common to both Marxian analysis and sociology the question of subjectivity the nature of social reality and the dialectical relationship of the doing or practice of a science of society to the social world within which such social analyses are situated Originally published in 1976

Problems of a Sociology of Knowledge (Routledge Revivals) Max Scheler, 2012 First Published in 1980 Manfred S Frings translation of *Problems of a Sociology of Knowledge* makes available Max Scheler's important work in sociological theory to the English speaking world The book presents the thinker's views on man's condition in the twentieth century and places it in a broader context of human history This book highlights Scheler as a visionary thinker of great intellectual strength who defied the pessimism that many of his peers could not avoid He comments on the isolated fragmented nature of man's existence in society in the twentieth century but suggests that a World Age of Adjustment is on the brink of existence Scheler argues that the approaching era is a time for the disjointed society of the twentieth century to heal its fractures and a time for different forms of human knowledge to come together in global understanding

Rousseau and Weber J.G. Merquior, 2013-04-15 Jean Jacques Rousseau and Max Weber central thinkers to the discussion of political legitimacy represent two very different stages and forms of social theory early modern political philosophy and classical sociology In these studies Dr Merquior describes and assesses their individual contributions to the understanding of the concept of political legitimacy Dr Merquior compares Rousseau and Weber to a handful of other major theorists and highlights the contemporary prospects of the alternatives between democratic participation and bureaucratism This book was first published in 1980

The Ceremonial Order of the Clinic P.M. Strong, Robert Dingwall, 2018-02-05 This title was first published in 2001 A classic ethnographic study of the interactions between paediatricians and parents of children thought to be neurologically handicapped Strong used this work to systematize the often chaotic ideas of Erving Goffman to explore the connections between micro and macro analysis in sociology and to reflect on the nature of medical practice in modern liberal societies The book stands as a testament to Strong's pursuit of methodological rigour in qualitative sociology

Structure, Consciousness, and History Richard Harvey Brown, Stanford M. Lyman, 1978-08-31 First published in 1978 this volume is addressed to the crisis prevailing in the social and cultural sciences The authors explore the

conflict between positivism and romanticism between hard and soft sociological research methods and between objectivity and subjectivity conflicts that were particularly acute in sociology at the time of publication All of the essays adopt the approach of symbolic realism or cognitive aesthetics to overcome the dualism in conventional sociological theory This strategy of symbolic realism is a philosophical amalgam forged from findings in existential phenomenology ordinary language philosophy and pragmatism It establishes a legitimate basis for the application of aesthetic criteria to truth seeking in the social sciences The synthesis emergent from these essays suggests a paradigm with broad implications for all the human studies Students of culture will find this volume a provocative point of departure for their own investigations

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