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IDEAS IN CONTEXT 55

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## IDEAS IN CONTEXT

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
DURKHEIM'S SOCIAL  
REALISM

ROBERT ALUN JONES



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*To the memory of my father*

In sum, Montesquieu does not sufficiently appreciate how much, in Bacon's words, the subtlety of things surpasses the subtlety of the human mind.

*Quid Secundatus Politicae Scientiae Instituendae Contulerit*  
(Montesquieu's Contribution to the Rise of Social Science)

We can see now the link which binds Rabelais and his age to the Middle Ages and Scholasticism. In spite of everything the book remains the object of a superstitious cult, albeit one of quite a different kind; the text remains something sacrosanct. But as against this, what a transformation, what a revolution has taken place! Something quite different is being sought for in the book: beyond the book, behind it, one can just see emerging, however timidly and uncertainly, the Thing.

*L'Evolution pédagogique en France*

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### *Note on texts and references*

In some cases, I have made use of existing translations of Durkheim's works, while in others I have relied on my own translations. To avoid confusion, my practice has been as follows. Where referring to Durkheim's works in the body of the text, I have consistently used the original title, together with the date on which that work first appeared – e.g., “La Science positive de la morale en Allemagne” (1887), *De la division du travail social* (1893), and so on. Where I have cited a specific passage, I have provided the date of the text used (whether the original or the translation), a letter (if necessary to indicate which text published during that year), and the page(s) cited. A citation from my translation of “La Science positive de la morale en Allemagne,” for example, appears as (1887b: 141–2), while a citation from W. D. Hall's translation of *De la division du travail social* appears as (1984: 291–341). Where I have cited André Lalande's recently discovered notes from Durkheim's philosophy lectures at the Lycée de Sens (1883–4), I have used the date 1884, followed by the page numbers of the original manuscript at the Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne (MS no. 2351).