

Conceptualising the Social World

This comprehensive and authoritative statement of fundamental principles of sociological analysis integrates approaches that are often seen as mutually exclusive. John Scott argues that theorising in sociology and other social sciences is characterised by the application of eight key principles of sociological analysis: culture, nature, system, space-time, structure, action, mind, and development. He considers the principal contributions to the study of each of these dimensions in their historical sequence in order to bring out the cumulative character of knowledge. Showing that the various principles can be combined in a single disciplinary framework, Scott argues that sociologists can work most productively within an intellectual division of labour that transcends artificial theoretical and disciplinary differences. Sociology provides the central ideas for conceptualising the social, but it must co-exist productively with other social science disciplines and disciplinary areas.

JOHN SCOTT is Professor of Sociology at the University of Plymouth, where he is currently Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research. He is the author of numerous books including *Social Theory* (2006), *Power* (2001), and *Social Structure* (with Jose Lopez, 2000). With James Fulcher he is the author of *Sociology* (4th edn, 2011) and with Gordon Marshall he edits the *Oxford Dictionary of Sociology* (3rd edn, 2005). His special areas of interest include social stratification, economic sociology, social network analysis, and the history of sociology.

Conceptualising the Social World

Principles of Sociological Analysis

John Scott



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Contents

	<i>page</i>
<i>List of figures</i>	<i>vii</i>
1 Diversity and Continuity in Social Theory	1
2 Culture: the Socialisation of Meaning	11
Culture, language, and meaning	13
Culture as collective mentality	16
Communication and cultural reproduction	22
Cultural differentiation and diversity	24
Symbolic systems and cultural codes	28
Culture, discourse, and power	35
3 Nature: Conditions and Constraints	39
Environment and way of life	42
Determinism and possibilism	48
Habitat, place, and way of life	54
Bodies and the genetic mechanism	58
Cultural and social construction	63
Race and ethnicity	70
Sex, gender, kinship	76
Matters of life and death	82
4 Systemic Processes: Regulation and Control	86
Motion, forces, and fields	88
Organisation, emergence, and function	93
Information, integration, and autonomy	103
Complexity and chaos	113
5 Space-Time: Forms and Practices	116
Space	116
Formal conceptions of space	121
Surfaces and urban structures	126
Time	130
Social time, temporalising practices, and objectified time	134
Levels of time and structures of time	140
	v

vi	Contents	
6	Social Structure: Institutions and Relations	144
	The facticity of social structures	146
	Institutional structure	151
	Relational structure	159
	Structuration and causal power	169
7	Social Action: Interpersonal and Collective	176
	Action and social action	178
	Strategic action and social exchange	188
	Committed action and symbolic interaction	194
	Agency, structure, and reflexivity	202
	Collective action	205
8	Subjects: Socialised Minds	214
	Mind and mentality	217
	Instincts and emotions	222
	Personality structure and the unconscious	230
	Cognitive and emotional integrity	236
	Sleep, dreams, and neuroses	238
	Personality development	242
9	Social Development: Differentiation and Change	251
	Growth, development, and differentiation	252
	Unilinear and multilinear development	256
	Conflict, diffusion, and path dependence	261
10	Conclusion	267
	<i>Notes</i>	275
	<i>References</i>	281
	<i>Index</i>	325

Figures

1 Homeostasis in a social system	<i>page</i> 97
2 The multidimensional action space	107
3 The four subsystems of action	108
4 Action orientations	183