

WPR Course Glossary

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Conceptual logics

meanings that are necessary to make a particular problem representation intelligible – i.e. to make it cohere or make sense.

Correspondence theory of knowledge:

states that the truth or falsity of a statement is determined only by how it relates to the world and whether it accurately describes, or corresponds with, that world.

Critical realism:

synthesizes epistemological relativism with a strong scientific and ontological realism. See Bhaskar 1978; Steinmetz 1998.

Discourses:

socially-produced knowledges.

Endogenous:

developing within; originating internally.

Epistemology:

what we think we can know about the nature of things.

Exogenous:

developing without; originating externally.

Nominalism:

'The ancient philosophical theory that general terms such as "animal" or "body" are only words and do not denote any extramental reality' (Flynn, T. R. (2005) *Sartre, Foucault, and Historical Reason, Volume II: A poststructural mapping of history*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, p. 314)

Ontology:

what we believe about the nature of things.

Positivism:

endorses the view that there is a real world that is accessible to objective description and analysis.

Problem representations:

the implied (implicit) 'problems' in problematizations.

Problematization:

how something is put forward as a problem. Since policy proposals specify what needs to change, *they are forms of problematization*, containing implicit representations of the 'problem'.

Social constructionism:

emphasizes the extent to which our understandings of the world are the product of social forces.

Subject positions:

those forms of subjectivity made available within discourses (e.g. the 'problem gambler', the 'higher education student', the 'de facto spouse', etc.)