

Natural Experimentation and Scientific Knowledge. Ways of Understanding the World According to Schütz and Luckmann

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Abstract:

In the present paper we will focus on searching for the different ways in which social agents can interpret the world around them, according to the phenomenological perspectives of Alfred Schütz and Thomas Luckmann. Starting with a first general distinction between everyday knowledge and scientific knowledge, we will follow a route through the different modes of comprehension of the world: imposed and motivated; concrete and abstract; internal and external; unitary and fragmented. In this context, we will also have to analyze the very possibilities of these kinds of knowledge, and the nature and constitution of the social world. Finally, we will try to prove how the temporal dimension of the world is that which underlies every interpretive process.

Keywords: Science, stock of knowledge, understanding, interpretation, temporality.

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