

The Social Construction

An Invitation to Social Construction The Social Construction of What? The Reality of Social Construction Social Construction An Introduction to Social Constructionism Social Constructionism The Catholic Faith and the Social Construction of Religion Social Constructivism as Paradigm? The Social Construction of Global Corruption Practicing Therapy as Social Construction International Law as Social Construct Social Construction in Context The Social Construction of Climate Change Constructing Social Work Practices Realities and Relationships The Social Construction of Technological Systems Contemporary Social Constructionism The Construction of Social Reality An Invitation to Social Construction Social Constructionisms Kenneth J Gergen Ian Hacking Dave Elder-Vass Kenneth J Gergen Vivien Burr Vivien Burr Peter Stuart Michaela Pfadenhauer Elitza Katzarova Sheila McNamee Carlo Focarelli Kenneth J Gergen Mary E. Pettenger Arja Jokinen Kenneth J. Gergen Wiebe E. Bijker Darin Weinberg John R. Searle Kenneth J Gergen Titus Hjelm

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remains an authoritative overview of the field but is now markedly more accessible it will be invaluable to students and scholars looking for a sustained and engaging inquiry into the premises and practices of social constructionism dr matthew adams university of brighton kenneth gergen elegantly presents his constructionist ideas in a style that is both relational and inviting and at the same time comprehensive and thorough by tracing the history of his ideas he provides a blueprint for others to follow by including further reflections and additional references dr gergen once again has paved the way for innovative relational and ethical ways of thinking about pedagogy research and practice i strongly recommend this outstanding book for child and youth care practitioners social workers counselors mediators and psychologists marie hoskins professor school of child and youth care faculty of human and social development university of victoria this aptly titled book provides an accessible theoretical introduction to social constructionism applicable to numerous fields therapy education research as a teacher of family therapy this book provides a foundation for understanding social constructionist therapy models and research and adds depth to my students understanding of these models kevin lyness antioch university reflecting the significant developments in constructivist thought and practice the second edition of an invitation to social construction has been thoroughly revised and updated with material on major new areas such as discourse analysis action research the body and environmentalism while still preserving the celebrated wide ranging and profound approach of the first the second edition now with pedagogical features throughout is even more accessible for students

lost in the raging debate over the validity of social construction is the question of what precisely is being constructed facts gender quarks reality is it a person an object an idea a theory each entails a different notion of social construction ian hacking reminds us his book explores an array of examples to reveal the deep issues underlying contentious accounts of reality especially troublesome in this dispute is the status of the natural sciences and this is where hacking finds

some of his most telling cases from the conflict between biological and social approaches to mental illness to vying accounts of current research in sedimentary geology he looks at the issue of child abuse very much a reality though the idea of child abuse is a social product he also cautiously examines the ways in which advanced research on new weapons influences not the content but the form of science in conclusion hacking comments on the culture wars in anthropology in particular a spat between leading ethnographers over hawaii and captain cook written with generosity and gentle wit by one of our most distinguished philosophers of science this wise book brings a much needed measure of clarity to current arguments about the nature of knowledge

social construction is a central metaphor in contemporary social science yet it is used and understood in widely divergent and indeed conflicting ways by different thinkers most commonly it is seen as radically opposed to realist social theory dave elder vass argues that social scientists should be both realists and social constructionists and that coherent versions of these ways of thinking are entirely compatible with each other this book seeks to transform prevailing understandings of the relationship between realism and constructionism it offers a thorough ontological analysis of the phenomena of language discourse culture and knowledge and shows how this justifies a realist version of social constructionism in doing so however it also develops an analysis of these phenomena that is significant in its own right provided by publisher

this reader introduces a number of important viewpoints central to social constructionism and charts the development of social constructionist thought

introduction to social constructionism is a readable and critical account of social constructionism for students new to the field focusing on the challenge to psychology that social constructionism poses viven burr examines the notion of personality to illustrate the rejection of essentialism by social constructionists this questions psychology's traditional understanding of the person she then shows how the study of language can be used as a focus for our understanding of human behaviour and experience this is continued by examining discourses and their role in constructing social phenomena and the relationship between discourse and power however the problems associated with these analyses are also clearly outlined many people believe that one of the aims of social science should be to bring about social change viven burr analyses what possibilities there might be for change in social constructionist accounts she also addresses what social constructionism means in practice to research in the social sciences and includes some guidelines on undertaking discourse analysis introduction to social constructionism is an invaluable and clear guide for all perplexed students who want to begin to understand this difficult area

this accessible yet scholarly textbook aims to introduce students to the area of social science theory and research that has come to be known as social constructionism using a variety of examples from everyday experience and from existing research in areas such as personality sexuality and health the basic theoretical assumptions of social constructionism are clearly explained key debates such as the nature and status of knowledge truth reality and the self are given in depth analysis in an accessible style the theoretical and practical issues relevant to social constructionist research are illustrated with examples from real empirical studies and the different approaches to social constructionist research are clearly defined while the text is broadly sympathetic to social constructionism the weaknesses of the approach are also addressed through a critical approach to the material and in the final chapter the theory is subjected to a more extensive critique social constructionism second edition extends and updates the material covered in the first edition and will be a useful and informative resource for undergraduate and postgraduate students of psychology as well as students from related areas such as health social work and education

the intent behind this book is to provide grist for the mill for research students and other interested readers chapter one by author allan savage presents an understanding of the social construction of religious activity which maintains that social construction of religion arises from a dialectical engagement within the world from a phenomenological philosophical point of view co author peter stuart presents a classical and traditional point of view and readers expecting

academic accord between the authors will be disappointed a further rationale for writing this book is that both savage and stuart desire to express their personal convictions in the public forum both have interests in the ebb and flow of civilization especially as it pertains to the place of faith religion politics and a variety of social phenomena including economics culture gender ethnicity and the family as well as the ebb and flow of money power property and prestige as articulated throughout history they believe that writing about the place of faith and religion in french canada is crucial if one is to understand the place that this keystone civilization occupies within confederation and its enduring ambivalence regarding its belonging or not to canada

social constructivism is one of the most prominent theoretical approaches in the social sciences this volume celebrates the 50th anniversary of its first formulation in peter berger and luckmann s classic foundational text the social construction of reality addressing the work s contribution to establishing social constructivism as a paradigm and discussing its potential for current questions in social theory the contributing authors indicate the various cultural understandings and theoretical formulations that exist of social construction its different fields of research and the promising new directions for future research that it presents in its most recent developments a study of the importance of a work that established a paradigm in the international sociology of knowledge this book will appeal to scholars of sociology with interests in social theory the history of the social sciences and the significance of social constructivism

this book offers new ways of thinking about corruption by examining the two distinct ways in which policy approaches and discourse on corruption developed in the un and the oecd one of these approaches extrapolated transnational bribery as the main form of corrupt practices and advocated a limited scope offense while the other approach tackled the broader structure of the global economic system and advocated curbing the increasing power of multinational corporations developing nations in particular chile initiated and contributed much to these early debates but the us sponsored issue of transnational bribery came to dominate the international agenda in the process the corrupt corporation was supplanted by the corrupt politician the corrupt public official and their international counterpart the corrupt country this book sheds light on these processes and the way in which they reconfigured our understanding of the state as an economic actor and the multinational corporation as a political actor

this book is a comprehensive introduction to social constructionist ideas and their application within the psychological therapies whether you are a trainee or qualified therapist this book will support you to think about therapy as a socially constructed and relational process and to develop as a more culturally socially and politically aware practitioner it advocates for therapist activists who understand the interplay between the micro and the macro in therapeutic contexts and debunks the idea of the isolated client to examine how broader societal conditions create problems for the individual chapters are designed to engage offering a variety of features to support learning including introductory and concluding chapter summaries textboxes summarising content spotlighting key information case studies and vignettes throughout reflective questions thought provoking exercises recommended further reading this book has wide applicability with author affiliations across both north and south america the university of new hampshire in the us and the federal university of uberlandia in brazil

the book distils and articulates international law as a social construct it does so by analysing its social foundations essence and roots in practical and socially workable as opposed to pure reason in addition to well known doctrines of jurisprudence and international law it draws upon psycho analytic insights into the origins and nature of law as well as philosophical social constructivism the work suggests that seeing law as a social construct is crucial to our understanding of international law and to the struggle to create better working rules the book re conceptualizes both past and new doctrines of international law as constructs namely as strategies of concomitantly de mythologizing and re mythologizing international law key areas of international law including subjects sources hierarchy values and remedies are shown to be part of this process the social impact on international law of transnational actors and stakeholders normative fragmentation global justice legitimacy of both rules and players dynamics and hierarchization of norms

compliance and implementation in municipal law is also extensively investigated five basic values of the international community namely security humanity wealth environment and knowledge are explored by stressing their inter and intra tensions finally the analysis is extended to the role that international courts play in the prosecution of heads of state and other transnational players who violate international law

this latest book by one the world s leading protagonists in the field will be welcomed not just by psychologists but by students academics and professionals interested in social constructionism across a wide range of subjects social construction in context explores the potentials of social constructionist theory when placed in diverse intellectual and practical contexts it demonstrates the achievements of social constructionism and what it can now offer various fields of inquiry both academic professional and applied given the proliferation of the theory across the social sciences and humanities first order issues of concern within the academic world objectivity truth power and ideology are now being augmented by widespread developments in practice therapeutic pedagogical organizational and political this book looks closely at these developments and examines both the positive potentials and limitations of social constructionist theory when applied to a variety of domains it has been written in an accessible and scholarly manner making it suitable for a wide ranging readership

adopting two constructivist perspectives norm centred and discourse to explore the social construction of climate change from a broad theoretical level to particular cases this volume offers a greater understanding of why current efforts to mitigate

first published in 1999 jokinen juhila and poso comprises both theoretical reflexive articles and articles based on empirical social constructionist studies it provokes new ways of looking at social work practices as interpretative and interactive processes in addition to this theoretical and methodological contribution the volume provides empirically based material on the practical implications of an alliance between social work and social constructionism

recent attempts to challenge the primacy of reason and its realization in foundationalist accounts of knowledge and cognitive formulations of human action have focused on processes of discourse drawing from social and literary accounts of discourse kenneth gergen considers these challenges to empiricism under the banner of social construction his aim is to outline the major elements of a social constructionist perspective to illustrate its potential and to initiate debate on the future of constructionist pursuits in the human sciences generally and psychology in particular

the impact of technology on society is clear and unmistakeable the influence of society on technology is more subtle the 13 essays in this book have been written by a diverse group of scholars united by a common interest in creating a new field the sociology of technology they draw on a wide array of case studies from cooking stoves to missile systems from 15th century portugal to today s al labs to outline an original research program based on a synthesis of ideas from the social studies of science and the history of technology together they affirm the need for a study of technology that gives equal weight to technical social economic and political questions back cover

provides a detailed critical overview of the key themes of social constructionism which explains how phenomena and ways of thinking develop in their social contexts weinberg traces the multiple roots of social constructionism and shows how it has been used critiqued and refined within the social and human sciences publishers website

this short treatise looks at how we construct a social reality from our sense impressions at how for example we construct a five pound note with all that implies in terms of value and social meaning from the printed piece of paper we see and touch in the construction of social reality eminent philosopher john searle examines the structure of social reality or those portions of the world that are facts only by human agreement such as money marriage property and government and contrasts it to a brute reality that is independent of human agreement searle shows that brute reality provides the indisputable foundation for all social reality and that social reality while very

real is maintained by nothing more than custom and habit

this fully updated fourth edition of gergen s an invitation to social construction introduces you to a key theoretical movement in contemporary social science through a wide range of multidisciplinary examples the fourth edition includes wider consideration of contemporary global challenges increased coverage of media digital culture and relevant political issues updated real world examples of social constructionist theory in action in research education therapy organizations and peace building this book brings together complex theories that inform and critically build upon social constructionism such as narratology deconstruction dialogism positivism and post structuralism in a way that is accessible for students and researchers alike it is a vital resource for those studying social psychology and critical social psychology who are looking for a comprehensive guide to one of the core topics in the field kenneth j gergen is senior research professor in psychology at swarthmore college and the president of the taos institute

social constructionism is one of the key ideas in the social sciences offering different frameworks for understanding the human world but what does it mean when we say that something is socially constructed what exactly do we construct in our social interaction and what actually does the constructing this dynamic text invites critical reflection on these questions and more outlining the various ways that social constructionist theory has been utilised in the social sciences hjelm introduces the basic assumptions of social constructionism before examining the differences between various constructionist traditions and perspectives from berger and luckmann s sociology of knowledge to constructionist approaches in social psychology and discourse analysis through a diverse range of case studies on religion crime gender and the media the chapters demonstrate how to apply constructionist ideas in empirical social research social constructionisms is thus an invaluable source for students and scholars across the social sciences

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