

WELCOME

STRUCTURATION THEORY

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ ***A prominent scholar & British sociologist Anthony Giddens, who developed the concept of structuration.***
- ❖ ***Structuration theory attempts to understand human social behaviour by resolving the competing views of structure-agency & macro-micro perspective.***
- ❖ ***This is achieved by studying the processes that take place at the interface between the actor and the structure.***

STRUCTURATION

- ❖ *Structuration means studying the ways in which social systems are produced and reproduced in social interaction.*
- ❖ *Giddens defines structuration as "the structuring of social relations across time and space, in virtue of the duality of structure".*
- ❖ *Structuration is a processes, modify, developed by the actor.*

DUALITY OF STRUCTURE

- ❖ ***The term structure referred generally to "rules and resources" and more specifically to "the structuring properties allowing the 'binding' of time-space in social systems".***
- ❖ ***Giddens uses "the duality of structure" to emphasize structure's nature as both medium and outcome.***
- ❖ ***Social structures contain agents and or are the product of past actions of agents. Giddens holds this duality, alongside "structure" and "system," as the core of structuration theory.***

❖ *The duality of structure is essentially a process whereby agents and structures mutually enact social systems, and social systems in turn become part of that duality.*

STRUCTURE AND SOCIETY

Structures are the "rules and resources" embedded in agents' memory traces. Agents call upon their memory traces of which they are "knowledgeable" to perform social actions. "Knowledgeability" refers to "what agents know about what they do, and why they do it." Giddens divides memory traces (structures-within-knowledgeability) into three types:

- Domination (power): Giddens also uses "resources" to refer to this type. "Authoritative resources" allow agents to control persons, whereas "allocative resources" allow agents to control material objects.***

- ***Signification (meaning)***
- ***Legitimation (norms): Giddens sometimes uses "rules" to refer to either signification or legitimation. An agent draws upon these stocks of knowledge via memory to inform him or herself about the external context, conditions, and potential results of an action.)***
- ***When an agent uses these structures for social interactions, they are called modalities and present themselves in the forms of facility (domination), interpretive scheme or communication (signification) and norms or sanctions (legitimation).***

AGENTS AND SOCIETY

- ***Agency, as Giddens calls it, is human action.***
- ***Agency is critical to both the reproduction and the transformation of society. Another way to explain this concept is by what Giddens calls the "reflexive monitoring of actions."***
- ***"Reflexive monitoring" refers to agents' ability to monitor their actions and those actions' settings and contexts. Monitoring is an essential characteristic of agency.***

- ***Actions are constrained by agents inherent capabilities and their understandings of available actions and external limitations. Practical consciousness and discursive consciousness inform these abilities.***
- ***Practical consciousness is the knowledgeability that an agent brings to the tasks required by everyday life, which is so integrated as to be hardly noticed. Reflexive monitoring occurs at the level of practical consciousness. Discursive consciousness is the ability to verbally express knowledge.***

- ***Alongside practical and discursive consciousness, Giddens recognizes actors as having reflexive, contextual knowledge, and that habitual, widespread use of knowledgeability makes structures become institutionalized.***