

The social sciences & humanities Are Founded Upon the Social System


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Abstract

Identifying the points of distinction between the social sciences & humanities and the social system, while simultaneously recognizing the interconnection between these two realms of discourse, is an issue that can shed light on the methodological ambiguities of studies in the social sciences & humanities on the one hand, and the specific field of studies on the social system on the other. Studies of the social system constitute a type of discourse that comprehensively addresses the ideals of individual and social human behavior. Based on these ideals, it seeks its own particular conception of humanity and society; and should it achieve external realization, social reality becomes an instantiation of those ideals. The social sciences & humanities, in their capacity as "sciences," constitute the study of the comprehensive orders implemented in society, their causes, and the connections between them—in essence, the study of social reality. Social systems have been articulated in their two archetypal forms, individualism and collectivism, within the frameworks of the capitalist system and the socialist system, under which a diverse spectrum of combinations of the individual and society has emerged throughout historical periods. The social sciences & humanities acquire meaning only through the existence of a social system, in such a way that they presuppose it. These social systems, which took shape in the modern era, have also brought with them their own specific sciences, namely the social sciences & humanities. If an alternative path for the social order can be proposed, the possibility for new social sciences & humanities, and even a new psychology would also arise.

Keywords: Social System, Problem of Science, Shahid Sadr, Giddens, Humanities, Social Sciences, Psychology.

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