

Society in Durkheim's The Rules of Sociological Method

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Emile Durkheim's "The Rules of Sociological Method" posits the existence of various 'social facts' which, according to him, should be the scope of all sociological study and discourse. Durkheim's discourse defines social facts as, ...a category of facts with very distinctive characteristics: it consists of ways of acting, thinking and feeling, external to the individual, and endowed with a power of coercion, by reason of which they control him. (Durkheim 3)

Thus the three main features of social facts are surfaced; as being external to the individual, emanating from a general and higher level than the individual and that these coerce or force an individual to act in accordance to them for the purpose of control. These facts, according to Durkheim, must be considered things, which he defines as realities that may be observed and classified. These things are posited to exist on the level of society, completely outside the realm of the individual and are used to control a person's thoughts, actions and feeling from being otherwise.

Should a person refuse to submit to this coercion, he would find himself the object of negative reactions ranging from ridicule, isolation or even concrete punishment or sanction. The implications of this definition initially cast sociology's field of study as all-encompassing, referring to all realities and processes of human life and behavior, thus Durkheim seeks to clarify and establish the meaning of the descriptor 'social' as opposed to other adjectives such as 'biological', 'psychological' and 'philosophical'.

Each individual drinks, sleeps, eats, reasons; and it is society's interest that these functions be exercised in an orderly manner. If then, all these facts are counted as "social" facts, sociology would have no subject matter exclusively its own, and its domain would be confused with biology and psychology. (Durkheim 1) As mentioned above, Durkheim perceives the social fact as the scope of sociological study, and uses other fields of study to show what sociology should underscore.

Biological facts and study deal with characteristics of the physical body of a person and are therefore not social, since the need to follow these facts (such as sleeping, eating and breathing) emanate from the physiological needs of an organism to survive. Psychological study deals with thought processes and phenomena that occur within an individual's consciousness. Durkheim posits that 'social' facts emanate not from one person's consciousness nor from a person's physiological needs, but from the level of society itself, "...

this term [social] fits them quite well, for it is clear that, since their source is not the individual, their substratum can be no other than society. " (Durkheim 3) Another implication of his definition is that social facts exist only with the presence of social institutions which enforce them and create them. For Durkheim, it is imperative to clarify that in most cases a social institution exists with the social fact, but it must not be thought that for a social fact to exist, a social institution must be present to have created it.

Rather, the reverse of the causation is in place....

On Durkheims Rules Of Sociological Method

Émile Durkheim



On Durkheim's Rules Of Sociological Method:

Rules of Sociological Method Emile Durkheim, 1882-12 First published in 1895 Emile Durkheim's masterful work on the nature and scope of sociology now with a new introduction and improved translation by leading scholar Steven Lukes The Rules of the Sociological Method is among the most important contributions to the field of sociology still debated among scholars today Through letters arguments and commentaries on significant debates Durkheim confronted critics clarified his own position and defended the objective scientific method he applied to his study of humans This updated edition offers an introduction and extra notes as well as a new translation to improve the clarity and accessibility of this essential work In the introduction Steven Lukes author of the definitive biography Emile Durkheim His Life and Work spells out Durkheim's intentions shows the limits of Durkheim's view of sociology and presents its political background and significance Making use of the various texts in this volume and Durkheim's later work Lukes discusses how Durkheim's methodology was modified or disregarded in practice and how it is still relevant today With substantial notes on context this user friendly edition will greatly ease the task of students and scholars working with Durkheim's method a view that has been a focal point of sociology since its original publication The Rules of the Sociological Method will engage a new generation of readers with Durkheim's rich contribution to the field

On Durkheim's Rules of Sociological Method Mike Gane, 2010-11-01 This radical appraisal of Durkheim's method first published in 1988 argues that fundamental errors have been made in interpreting Durkheim Mike Gane argues that to understand The Rules it is necessary also to understand the context of the French society in which the book was written He explores the cultural and philosophical debates which raged in France during the period when Durkheim prepared the book and establishes the real and unsuspected complexity of Durkheim's position its formal complexity its epistemological complexity and its historical complexity

The Rules of Sociological Method Emile Durkheim, 2014-02-25 Revised for the first time in over thirty years this edition of Emile Durkheim's masterful work on the nature and scope of sociology is updated with a new introduction and improved translation by leading scholar Steven Lukes that puts Durkheim's work into context for the twenty first century reader The Rules of Sociological Method represents Emile Durkheim's manifesto for sociology He argues forcefully for the objective scientific and methodological underpinnings of sociology as a discipline and establishes guiding principles for future research The substantial new introduction by leading Durkheim scholar Steven Lukes explains and sets into context Durkheim's arguments Lukes examines the still controversial debates about The Rules of Sociological Method's six chapters and explains their relevance to present day sociology The edition also includes Durkheim's subsequent thoughts on method in the form of articles debates with scholars from other disciplines and letters The original translation has been revised and reworked in order to make Durkheim's arguments clearer and easier to read This is an essential resource for students and scholars hoping to deepen their understanding of one of the pioneering voices in modern sociology and twentieth century social thought

The Rules of Sociological Method

Emile Durkheim, *Durkheim: The Rules of Sociological Method* Emile Durkheim, 2013-10-25 This revised and updated second edition of *The Rules of Sociological Method and Selected Texts on Sociology and its Method* represents Durkheim's manifesto for sociology. In it, he sought to establish sociology's scientific credentials and to provide guiding principles for future research. With a substantial new introduction by the leading Durkheim scholar Steven Lukes, the book explains the original argument and sets it in context. In addition, the still controversial debates about *The Rules of Sociological Method*'s six chapters are examined, and their relevance to present-day sociology is discussed. Also included are Durkheim's subsequent thoughts on method in the form of articles, debates with scholars from other disciplines, and letters. This edition contains helpful learning features to help introduce a new generation of sociology students to Durkheim's rich contribution to the field. This new edition offers an improved translation of one of Durkheim's cornerstone texts. With a substantial new introduction by world-renowned Durkheim scholar Steven Lukes, the book explains the original argument and sets it in context. It will engage a new generation of students with Durkheim's rich contribution to the field. [The Two Rules of Sociological Method](#) Chris Jenks, 1996 [On Durkheim's Rules of Sociological Method \(Routledge Revivals\)](#) Mike Gane, 2010-11 This radical appraisal of Durkheim's method, first published in 1988, argues that fundamental errors have been made in interpreting Durkheim. Mike Gane argues that to understand *The Rules*, it is necessary also to understand the context of the French society in which the book was written. He explores the cultural and philosophical debates which raged in France during the period when Durkheim prepared the book and establishes the real and unsuspected complexity of Durkheim's position: its formal complexity, its epistemological complexity, and its historical complexity. **The Rules of Sociological Method** Émile Durkheim, 1950 [The Rules of Sociological Method](#) Émile Durkheim, 1964 [The Rules of Sociological Method, by Emile Durkheim ... 8th Ed., Translated by Sarah A. Solovay and John H. Mueller and Edited by George E.G. Catlin](#) Émile Durkheim, Sarah A. Solovay, John Henry Mueller, Sir George Edward Gordon Catlin, **Emile Durkheim** Kenneth Thompson, 2002 This classic series provides students with concise and readable introductions to the work, life, and influence of the great sociological thinkers. *The Rules of Sociological Method* Émile Durkheim, 1938 **Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Émile Durkheim's 'The Rules of Sociological Method'** Stephen P. Turner, 1995 [Emile Durkheim](#) W. S. F. Pickering, 2001 A five-volume collection of scholarly journal articles and chapters from books covering the subject of Emile Durkheim's work. The five volumes are thematically organized in the following sections: Volume I 1 Durkheim: The man himself 2 General sociology Volume II 3 Religion 4 Epistemology and the philosophy of science Volume III 5 Morality and ethics 6 Political sociology Volume IV 7 Suicide and anomie 8 Division of labour and economics 9 Education **Durkheim, Bernard and Epistemology** Paul Q. Hirst, 2010-11-01 This title, first published in 1975, contains two complementary studies by Paul Q. Hirst: the first based on Claude Bernard's theory of scientific knowledge and the second concerning Emile Durkheim's attempt to provide a philosophical foundation for a scientific sociology in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. The

author's primary concern is to answer the question is Durkheim's theory of knowledge logically consistent and philosophically viable His principal conclusion is that the epistemology developed in the Rules is an impossible one and that its inherent contradictions are proof that sociology as it is commonly understood can never be a scientific discipline *New Rules of Sociological Method* Anthony Giddens, 2013-06-10 This is a new and revised edition of a book which has already established itself as a basic text in social theory The first section of the work provides a concise critical analysis of some leading schools of thought in social philosophy giving particular attention to phenomenology ethnomethodology and Wittgensteinian thought Giddens concentrates primarily upon the implications of these various perspectives for an account of human action and its intelligibility An action approach on its own however will not do in human social life action and structure presuppose one another The author therefore moves on to provide a series of concepts relevant to understanding the production and reproduction of society The book concludes with a succinct statement of some new rules of sociological method Representing the first and most trenchant exposition of the principles of structuration theory this edition also contains a substantial new Introduction in which Giddens replies to some of the more persistent criticisms made of the original version and also addresses some important issues originally discussed only in a cursory way The Rules of Sociological Method Émile Durkheim, 1971 **Emile Durkheim** Robert Alun Jones, 1986-01-01 Professor Jones gives a succinct and critical analysis of the sociological theories and methodology of Emile Durkheim He focuses on four of Durkheim's books The Division Of Labour In Society 1893 The Rules Of Sociological Method 1895 and The Elementary Forms Of Religious Life 1912 With an illuminating chapter analysis of each work this text is ideal for undergraduate and graduate students The Rules of Sociological Method Émile Durkheim, 1938 Durkheim Through the Lens of Aristotle Douglas F. Challenger, 1994

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On Durkheims Rules Of Sociological Method Introduction

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