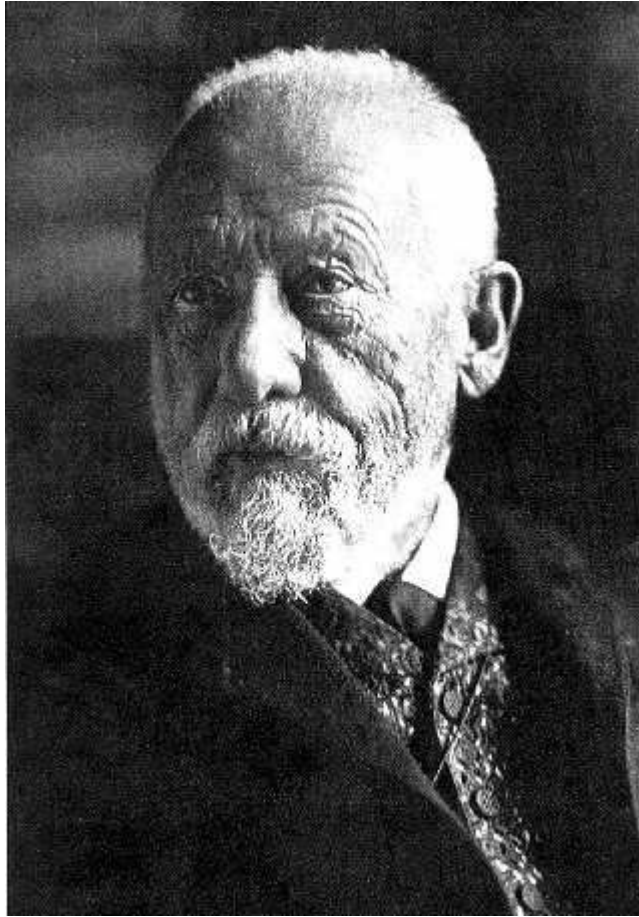


Interpretive “Approach” (Neuman 2003)

Also called :

“Interpretive Social Sciences” or
“Interpretive Human Sciences”

Wilhelm Dilthey (1833-1911)



- Dilthey can be regarded as an important “Classical Social Theorist” or “Classical Sociological Theorist” (Bakker 1999) and not “just” as a:
 - Philosopher
 - Historian
 - Humanist or
 - Psychologist

“Social Definition Paradigm” (Ritzer 1996)

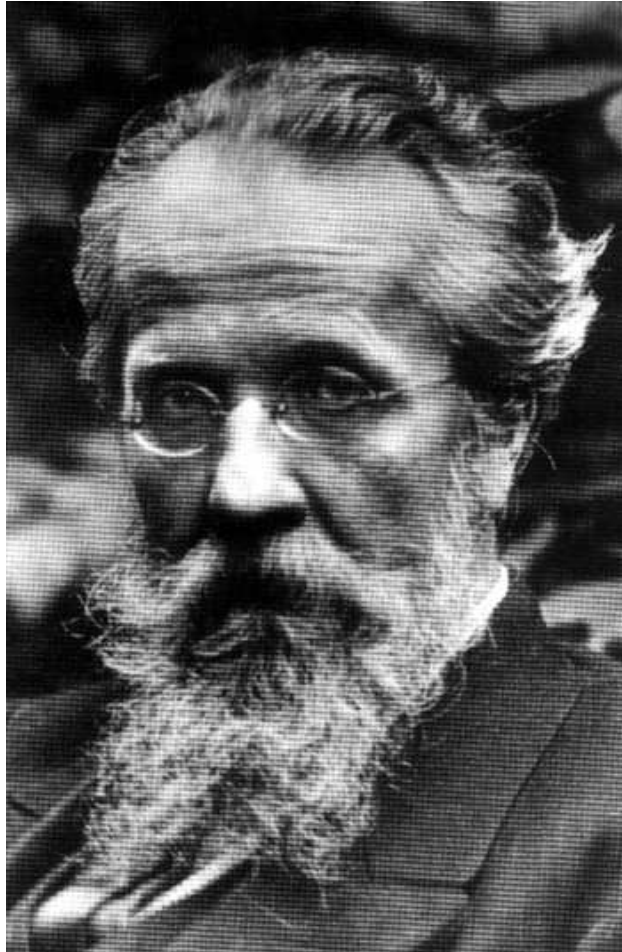
- In Ritzer’s text book on sociological theory he introduces the idea of an “Interpretive Approach” (Neuman 2003) but he calls it the “Social Definition Paradigm.” He does not mention Dilthey’s work, except in passing. Instead, he mentions Max Weber (1865-1920).



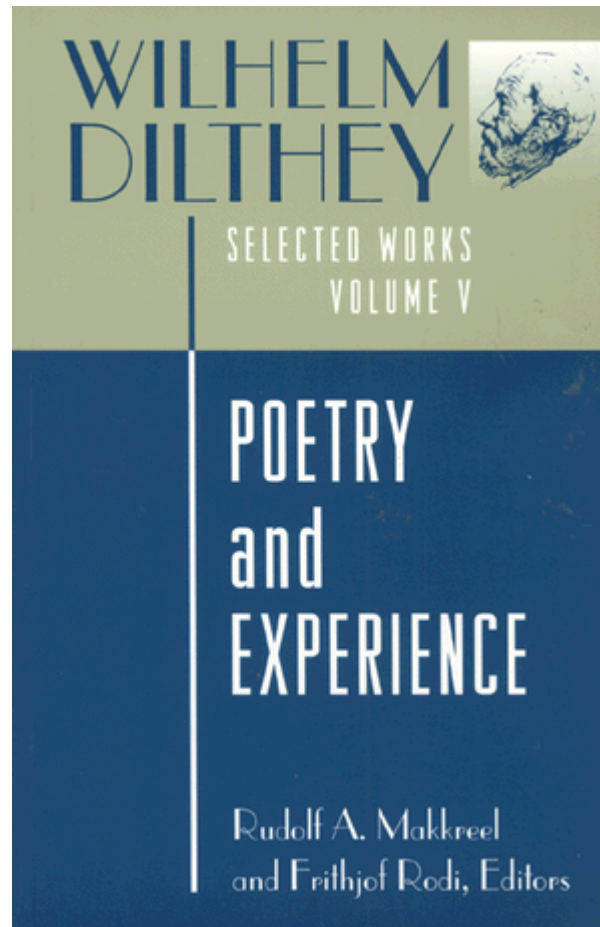
Dilthey's Impact on Weber?

- Wilhelm Dilthey was born in 1831. He was a grown man when Max, jr., was born.
- The mature Dilthey (c. 1875 he would have been 44) visited Max, Sr.'s, house.
- Little Max must have met Dilthey when he was growing up; he most certainly would have heard of Dilthey's conceptualization of Verstehen!
- Weber, jr., tends to mention Heinrich Rickert and not Wilhelm Dilthey, in his Methodological writing. But Rickert was from his generation.

Heinrich Rickert



Dilthey's "Humanism"



Geisteswissenschaften

- The word look ominous!
- But think it through one bit at a time.
- Geist = human spirit or soul (Gk. psyche)
- Wissen = to know, knowledge
- Wissenschaft = disciplined inquiry,
“science” in the Latin sense of scientia
- Hence, the disciplined approach to the
study of the human spirit, the Human
Sciences, the Social Sciences in general

Introduction to Human Sciences = Introduction To Sociology

