

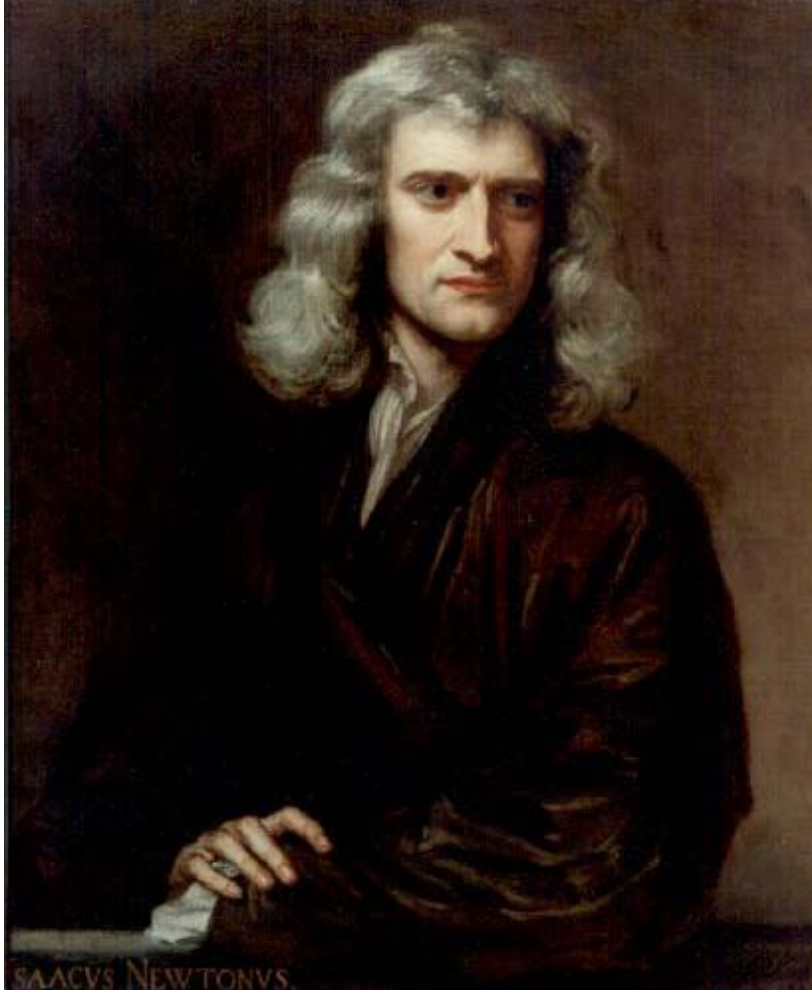
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Office: Wed. 2:30-3:50

Google: Hans Bakker Guelph

Infinite Regress: & Cosmologies Before Newton



- If Atlas is holding up the earth, then what is holding up Atlas?
- Answer: a giant turtle
- But, then what is holding up the turtle?
- Answer: another turtle
- But what is holding up that turtle?
- “It’s turtles all the way down!”

Theory-in-general =Tg = Metatheory and Theory

- “Metatheory” (Ritzer 2008: Appendix)
- Bakker calls it
- “Paradigmatic Theory” (Pm, Ps, Pr)
- Involves “Hermeneutic Spiral” (HS)
- Also called: “GrandTheory” (GT)
- “Theory”
- Bakker calls it “Middle Range Theory” (T-m) and “Research Theory” (Tr)
- Involves: “Hypothetico-Deductive System” (HD)
- Often discussed in conjunction with GT

Tg

- Metatheory

- Theory

Contemporary Theory?

- Classical Theory
- Contemporary Theory

What is contemporary sociological theory?

- Classical =
- 1. Standard Authors
- (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, Mead, Schutz)
- 2. Precursors (Ibn Khaldun, Spinoza)
- 3. Newly Appreciated Authors (e.g. Florence Nightingale, W. E. B. Du Bois)
- Contemporary =
- 1. Everyone since the classical era
- 2. Everyone since WWII
- (1933-1945?)
- 3. Everyone since 1968?
- 4. Include Metatheories of Postmodernists?

Metatheory according to Ritzer

- Metatheory for understanding (Mu)
- Metatheory as a prelude to Theory (Mp)
- Metatheory as an overarching perspective of some kind (Mo)
- These three categories overlap to some extent; they are not mutually exclusive
- That has bothered many students who want them to be mutually exclusive!

Approaches to Metatheory (Ritzer 2008: Appendix)

- Mu
- Intellectual?
- Internal?
- Social?
- External?
- Intellectual-Internal
- Social-External
- Social-Internal
- Intellectual-External
- Mp
- Prelude?
- Intellectual-External?
- Paradigmatic?
- Mo
- Bakker's Schema
- Also Intellectual-Internal?

Metatheory According to Bakker

- Bakker uses different word than Ritzer
- For Bakker it is useful to think in terms of “Paradigmatic Theory”
- Bakker’s Metatheory is a kind of Mo
- Bakker is trying to provide an over-arching perspective on “Theory”
- =Theory-in-general (Tg)
- Again, for Bakker Tg encompasses all “Theory” {Tg/ (Tg = Pm, Pr, Ps, Tm, Tr, E)}

Metatheory and Theory: Belong Together!

- Not Mu, but
- Bakker's Tg
- Not Mp, but
- Bakker's Tg
- In other words, we can look at Metatheory using Ritzer's idea of three types of Metatheory; but that is sometimes confusing.
- Not, Mo, but
- Bakker's Tg

Four Ways of Thinking About Tg

- Mu
- Mp
- Mo
- Bakker's Schema as encompassing all three (Mu, Mp & Mo)

Does a “Good Grade” Require Work?

- Not such a “good grade”?
- F (< 50%)
- D (50-59%)
- C- (60-62%)
- Pretty good grade
- C or C+ (63-69%)
- “Good Grade”?
- B (70-79%)
- A (80-90%)
- A++ (91-100%)
- If you get a B-, B, B+, or A-, you are doing “very well”
- Really “excellent” work would be an A or A+