

The Autology/Ontology-Paradox

The Ontology-Issue of Social Theory

- **Observable Structures**
Historical Constellations vs. General Types
- **Micro/Macro**
Human Relations vs. Society as a Whole
- **Materialism/Idealism**
Behaviour & Institutions vs. Mindsets & Cultures

The Autology-Issue of Social Theory

- **Being Part of the Object**
Reflection or Ideology?
- **Effects of Sociology**
Societal Technology or Sociological Enlightenment?
- **Participant Observers**
Understanding or Blind Spots?

A focus on the object tends to ignore its character as a social construction!

A debate on the construction of ideas tends to miss objectivity!

Abstraction
Scientific models base on abstraction

Objectivity
Any scientific discourse must refer to an external object

Ideology
The construction of „maps“ influences/ is influenced by social conditions.

Seeking for a scientific justification

Reflecting social conditions

The latent structure of the social theory discourse is characterised by an oscillation between autology and ontology.

Offering a „short and sweet“ sociological diagnosis of our time

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What seems to be a theory is always a performance tool!