

Contents

1 Social Science and the Sociology of Knowledge	1
I INTRODUCTION	1
II THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE ORIGINS OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES	4
III TOWARD A REDEFINITION OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE	7
2 A Brief History of the Sociology of Knowledge	13
I INTRODUCTION	13
II MARX AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE	16
III THE <i>METHODENSTREIT</i> AND GERMAN SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE	22
IV THE SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY	26
V THE REALISTS	39
VI CONCLUSION	47
3 Mannheim's Hermeneutic Sociology of Knowledge	50
I INTRODUCTION	50
II MANNHEIM'S SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE: THE BASIC STRUCTURE	52
III MANNHEIM'S CONCEPTION OF KNOWLEDGE	67
IV MANNHEIM AND ANTI-FOUNDATIONAL THOUGHT	78

4	Gadamer's Hermeneutics and the Methodology of the Social Sciences	91
	I <i>TRUTH AND METHOD</i>	91
	Gadamer's problematic	
	Art, play and the nature of the human sciences	
	The nature of the hermeneutic experience	
	The ontological connection: language, truth and reality	
	II GADAMER AND WITTGENSTEINIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE	117
	Language and the social sciences	
	Gadamerian hermeneutics and wittgensteinian social science: a comparison	
	III THE GADAMER–HABERMAS DEBATE	129
	IV GADAMER AND THE METHODOLOGY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES	139
	Action as a text	
	Hermeneutics and the sociology of knowledge	
5	Beyond Objectivism and Nihilism	160
	I INTRODUCTION	160
	II BEYOND HUMANISM: THE 'DEATH OF MAN'	167
	III FOUCAULT: MORAL NIHILISM	171
	IV DECONSTRUCTION: CONCEPTUAL NIHILISM	187
	Notes	197
	References	205
	Index	220