

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I. THE FORMULATION OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM AND THE CHOICE OF THE RIGHT METHODS

1. Problems with the Subject-matter and Scope of Sociology	1
2. The Social and Scientific Sources of the Research Problems in Sociology	5
3. The Object of Investigation and the Research Problem	11
4. Kinds of Questions. Problem and Hypothesis	12
5. Investigated Phenomena as an Object of Interest in Themselves and as a Sample of a Broader Class of Phenomena	16
6. Modes of Research with an "Historical" Intention	20
7. Specifying the Research Problem and Research Reconnaissance	23
8. Choice of Research Methods and the Final Operationalization of the Research Problem	27
9. The Research Assumptions	33

CHAPTER II. SOCIAL PHENOMENA AND PROCESSES

1. Two Ways of Looking at People and Human Collectivities	43
2. The Understanding of Social Phenomena and the Problem of the Specific Nature of the Humanities as Regards Methodology	47
3. Objects of the Extrahuman World as Seen by the Sociologist	52
4. Variables Characterizing Human Individuals in Social Research	54
5. Human Collectivities as an Object of Interest to Sociologists; Semantic Variations of the Term "Group"	60
6. The Features of Human Collectivities and of the Individuals Constituting Them	64
7. The Structural Features of Collectivities and the Normative Regulators of Human Behaviour	77

8. Two Ways of Regarding Cultural Phenomena	83
9. The Cross-sectional Characteristics of Human Collectivities and Dynamic Events and Processes Occurring in Them	90

CHAPTER III. CONCEPTS AND INDICATORS

1. The Terms and Concepts of the Language of Sociology	95
2. Singular and General, Universal and Historical Terms	98
3. Defining Concepts	101
4. Partial Definitions and Probabilistic Definitions	107
5. Syndromatic Concepts and Theoretical Models of Phenomena	111
6. Qualitative and Quantitative Variables	114
7. Classifications and Typologies	119
8. Observable Properties, Dispositional Features, and Inferred "Latent Variables" in the Content of Sociological Concepts	127
9. Types of Indicators in Social Research	132
10. Behaviour, Verbal Communications and Material Objects as Indicators of Sociological Variables	142
11. Non-formal Criteria of the Usefulness of Sociological Concepts	151
12. Emotionally Loaded Terms in the Conceptual Apparatus of Sociology	154

CHAPTER IV. KINDS OF PROPOSITIONS

1. The Degree of Generality of Propositions	159
2. Numerical Characterizations of Population; the Relative Frequencies of Phenomena and Statistical Relationships between Variables	164
3. Probabilistic Propositions	173
4. Space-time Relations and Other Structural Relations between the Elements of Sets	175
5. Causal Statements and Statements about the Concomitance or Sequence of Events	178
6. Types of Causal Relation between Dichotomous Variables	184
7. Relationships between Quantitative and Qualitative Variables	190
8. Functional Relationships between Two Quantitative Variables	193

9. Multivariable Relationships of Quantitative Variables	203
10. Types of Variables and the Character of Propositions about the Relationships between Them	211
11. Types of Propositions about the Dynamics of Social Processes	214
12. Elliptic or Indeterminate Statements in the Social Sciences	223
13. Tautological Statements	226
14. Empirical Statements and Value Judgements about Social Reality	231

CHAPTER V. SUBSTANTIATION OF STATEMENTS. EMPIRICAL VERIFICATION OF HYPOTHESES

1. The Role of Perceptual Judgements in Substantiating Propositions in the Empirical Sciences	241
2. Singular Statements and Inductive Justification of General Propositions	248
3. The Rules of Eliminative Induction	256
4. Experimental Manipulation of Independent Variables and Verification of Causal Hypotheses	261
5. Statistical or Historical Consequences of Conditional Relationships	266
6. Difficulties in the Verification of Universal Social Laws and Substitute Functions of Spatiotemporal Coordinates	274
7. Genetic Determination of Sociological Laws	277
8. Experimental Investigations and Non-experimental Methods of Verification of Causal Hypothesis	282
9. Generalizing from Conclusions and the Problem of the Representativeness of the Sample	294
10. Principles of Statistical Inference	300
11. Influence of Prior Knowledge on Interpretation of Research Results	311

CHAPTER VI. EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

1. The General Schema of Explanation	317
2. Explanation of Events and Sets of Events by Means of Statistical Propositions	323

3. Incomplete Explanation	326
4. Hypothetical Explanations	330
5. Contradictory and Complementary Explanations	332
6. Explanation of Human Behaviour in Terms of Motives	336
7. "Matrix" Laws in the Explanation of Human Behaviour	341
8. Genetic Explanations	343
9. Teleological Explanations	349
CHAPTER VII. CONSTRUCTION OF THEORIES	
1. Different Meanings of the Term "Theory"	357
2. Inventories of Theoretical Propositions and Typological Systematizations	361
3. Factorial Systematization of the Totality of Causes of the Same Effect	364
4. Hypothetical "Latent Variables" in the Systematization of Causal Chains	372
5. The Functional Approach	379
6. Axiomatized Theories	395
7. Simple Reductive Systematization	402
8. Reduction of Laws about Social "Wholes" to Laws about Their Component Elements	411
9. Theoretical Models of Social Phenomena and Processes	433
CHAPTER VIII. PREDICTION OF EVENTS AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF RESEARCH RESULTS	
1. Simple and Complex Prediction Schemata	441
2. Probabilistic and Conditional Predictions	444
3. Knowledge about the Structure and Culture of the Collectivity in the Process of Behaviour Prediction	447
4. Prediction of Behaviour on the Basis of Intentions, Plans, and Attitudes Towards the Future	449
5. Self-fulfilling Prognoses	453
6. Extrapolation of Trends	457
7. Long-term Prognoses	459

8. The Role of Sociological Research in the Discovery and Diagnosis of Social Problems	467
9. Theoretical and Diagnostic Knowledge in Social Engineering	470
10. Manipulation of Sociological Variables in Social Engineering	474
11. Empirical Evaluation of the Effects of Practical Action	478
12. Some Problems Related to the Practical Application of Sociological Studies	479
13. Applied Research and the Sociology of Particular Areas of Social Reality	485
14. The Social Functions of Sociology and the Responsibility of the Scientist	490
Index of Subjects	499