

Introduction to the Humanities

- What are the humanities?
- What is science?
- What is social science?
- What are the others?

WHAT
DOES
IT MEAN
TO BE
HUMAN



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The session today

- History of knowledge and thereby the....
- History of disciplines
 - Sciences/natural sciences
 - social sciences
 - humanities
- Division of this 'knowledge' into disciplines
- Key concepts and classification of our 'data'
- Bit of an example at the end!

Where we end up? Answer is anything goes...it's about humans...

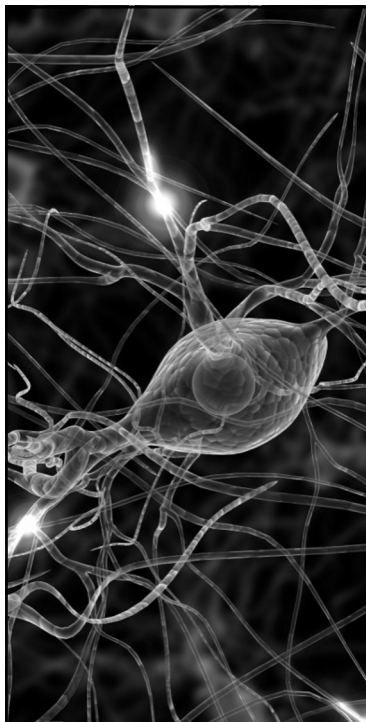
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The word Science

- From Latin *scientia*, meaning "knowledge" is a systematic study that builds and organizes knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions about the universe
- Classical use of the term "science" refers to the body of reliable knowledge itself, of the type that can be logically and rationally explained
- Since classical antiquity science as a type of knowledge was closely linked to philosophy – such as Aristotle, Pythagoras but built on the Egyptian model from c 685 B.C. by Thales of Miletus – without resource to supernatural explanation
- In the early modern era the words "science" and "philosophy" were sometimes used interchangeably in the English language.

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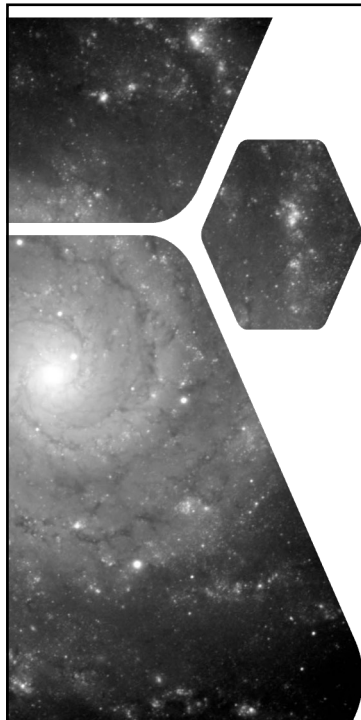
Why is this important?

To repeat two points

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A methodology of establishing knowledge, defending a thesis (a theory, a proposition, a hypothesis or an opinion)

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Science in modern use

- more often refers to a way of pursuing knowledge, not only the knowledge itself i.e. the scientific method
- often treated as synonymous with 'natural and physical science', and thus restricted to those branches of study that relate to the phenomena of the material universe and their laws
- This is now the dominant sense in ordinary use.
- This narrower sense of "science" developed as scientists such as Kepler, Galileo and Isaac Newton began formulating *laws of nature* such as Newton's laws of motion
- In this period it became more common to refer to as "natural science"

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Development: 19th century

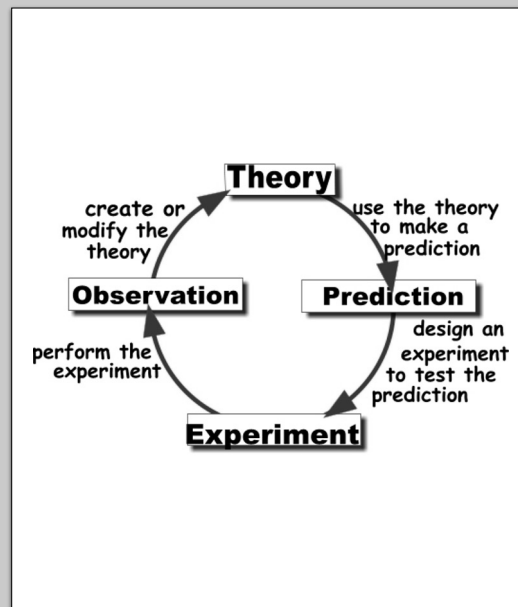
- the word "science" became increasingly associated with **the scientific method**, a disciplined way to study the natural world, including physics, chemistry, geology and biology
- the term *scientist* was created by the natural theologian William Whewell to distinguish those who sought knowledge on nature from those who sought knowledge on other disciplines (...divinity)
- This sometimes left the study of human thought and society in a linguistic limbo, which was resolved by classifying these areas of academic study as **social science**



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the scientific method

- 1) that there is an objective reality shared by all rational observers;
- 2) that this objective reality is governed by natural laws;
- 3) that these laws can be discovered by means of systematic observation and experimentation.



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The result

It caused a schism – a void into which many subjects or ways of understanding knowledge fell

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What about mind? Lived Experience?

- Philosophy of science seeks a deep understanding of what these underlying assumptions mean and whether they are valid.
- The belief that all observers share a common reality is known as realism
- that things that are true for one observer are true for all observers (objectivity)
- In contrast, idealism, anti-realism, irrealism, etc. the beliefs that the mind or spirit is the most basic essence, that spiritual principle is the basis of the world, or, that each mind generates its own reality,

In an idealistic world-view,

what is true for one mind
need not be true for other minds

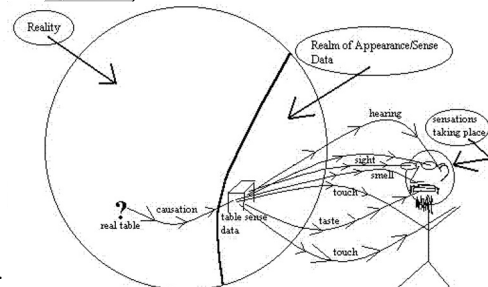


figure 2: (ACCORDING TO RUSSELL) WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON WHEN BILL SENSES A TABLE

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Scientific fields are commonly divided



- **natural sciences** - which study natural phenomena (including biological life)
- **social sciences** - which study human behaviour and societies

These groupings are empirical sciences, which means the knowledge must be based on observable phenomena and capable of being tested for its validity by other researchers working under the same conditions

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The social sciences developed from the sciences related to social improvement)

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Humans and how they relate to their world

What exactly are they?

....the social sciences are those subjects which examine and explain human beings....

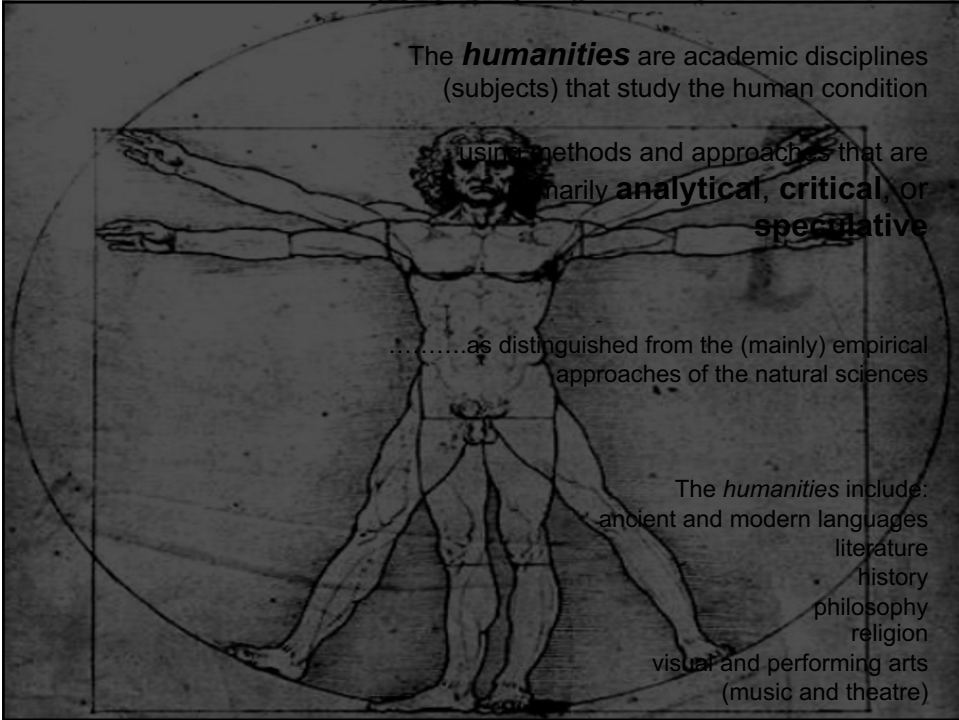
Definition by the European Science Foundation

From how minds work through to whole societies and the relationship of all

Anthropology, Sociology, Archaeology, Psychology, Developmental & International Studies, Human Geography etc...

and as such they deal with HUMANS...and their humanity

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The **humanities** are academic disciplines (subjects) that study the human condition

using methods and approaches that are primarily **analytical, critical, or speculative**

.....as distinguished from the (mainly) empirical approaches of the natural sciences

The **humanities** include:

- ancient and modern languages
- literature
- history
- philosophy
- religion
- visual and performing arts (music and theatre)

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humanities is derived from the Renaissance Latin expression: *studia humanitatis*, or "study of *humanitas*" (a classical Latin word meaning—in addition to "humanity" -- "culture, refinement, education" and, specifically, an "education befitting a cultivated man")

In its usage in the early 15th century, the *studia humanitatis* was a course of studies that consisted of : grammar, poetry, rhetoric, history, and moral philosophy

.....primarily derived from the study of Latin and Greek classics

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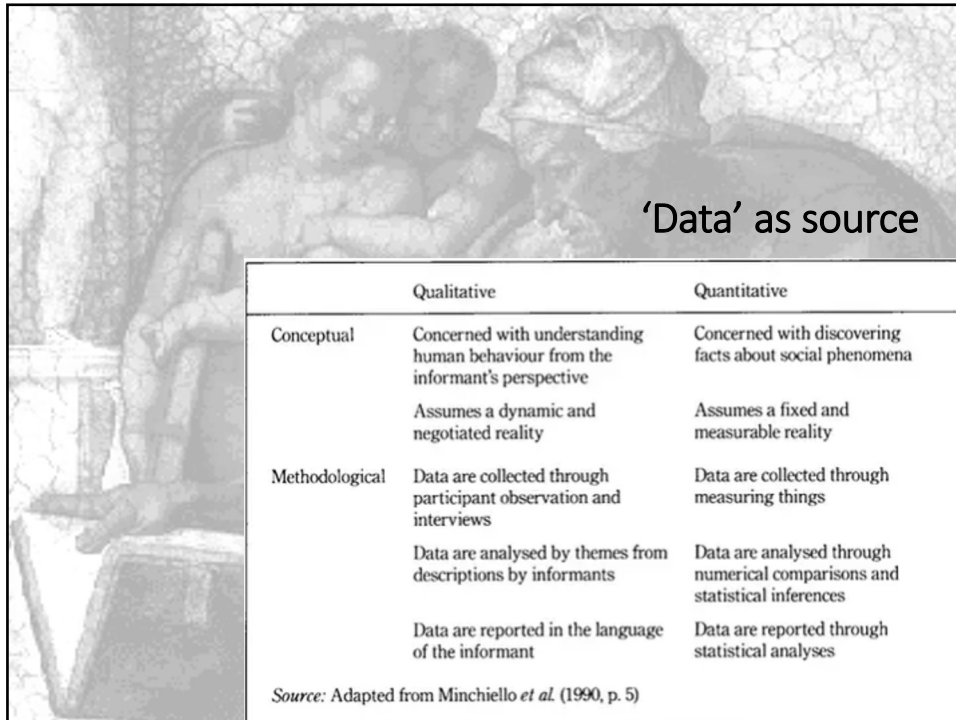
But disciplines take widely different approaches



From "Manga Guide to Statistics", Shin Takahashi, 2008

..and a discipline may take both approaches....

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'Data' as source

	Qualitative	Quantitative
Conceptual	Concerned with understanding human behaviour from the informant's perspective Assumes a dynamic and negotiated reality	Concerned with discovering facts about social phenomena Assumes a fixed and measurable reality
Methodological	Data are collected through participant observation and interviews Data are analysed by themes from descriptions by informants Data are reported in the language of the informant	Data are collected through measuring things Data are analysed through numerical comparisons and statistical inferences Data are reported through statistical analyses

Source: Adapted from Minichiello et al. (1990, p. 5)

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Put simply

Example:

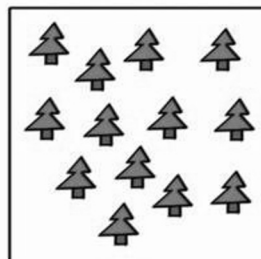
There are 13 trees in the 6 acre area.

The birds in the 6 acre area are blue, red, and yellow.

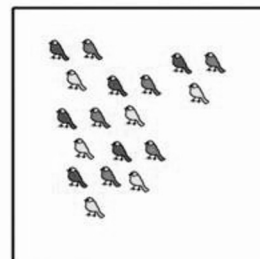
Qualitative and Quantitative Observations

From Sophia.org

Quantitative Qualitative



13 Trees
(all the same species)



Blue, Red, and Yellow Birds
and they all sing nicely or make a din!

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