

INTERPRETIVE EXPLANATION (IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES)

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WHAT MIGHT "INTERPRETIVISM" MEAN?

	"positivism"	"interpretivism"
theory	behavior	meaning
method	formal and quantitative	talking to people and reading texts
methodology	neopositivist (hypothesis-testing)	?

"THICK DESCRIPTION"

- "thick" = "experience-near"?
- description = bringing an object before us
- measurement
 - quantitative...
 - ...but also qualitative/conceptual

DESCRIPTION

- "what is that?"
 - pure: we have consensus about the standards and how to apply them
 - discretionary: we have consensus about the standards but not how to apply them
 - advocacy: we do not have consensus about which standards to apply
- all presume a shared practical context

PROBLEM-SITUATIONS AND BASIC QUESTIONS

- "what is this an instance of?" is descriptive
- "how do we make something happen?" is causal:
 - how/why do we get X rather than Y
 - *causal* explanation: augments practical capacity to bring about a result
 - a recipe is the *imperative form* of a causal explanation

"HOW DO WE GO ON?"

- response clarifies the applicable rules and their application to the case at hand
- *also* aims to augment a practical capacity: the capacity to act appropriately
- so this is also an *explanation...an interpretive explanation.*

TYPES OF INTERPRETIVE EXPLANATION

	explainer "outside"	explainer "inside"
questioner "outside"	translation	socialization
questioner "inside"	consulting	deliberation/ discernment