

Theory and methods: Topic 3 - Sociology and science

Positivists view: Sociology should be a science

Interpretivists view: Sociology should not be a science:

- Interactionism: Glaser and Strauss (1968)
- Ethnomethodologist: Atkinson (1978)
- Symbolic interactionism: Weber

Other views: Sociology should not be a science:

- Postmodernism
- Feminists

Popper: Falsification Sociology is mainly unscientific as things are hard to falsify (e.g. Marxist view). However things can be tested at a later date so it is possible

Kuhn: Paradigm Not currently scientific, but can only be scientific if we have a shared paradigm like in science

Realism: Sociology can be a science because science tests unobservable phenomena, this is the same for sociology)