

Why Qualitative Complexity?

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The legacy of philosophic idioms

- Onto-theo-logic
- The finite, formal subject
- Arbitrariness
- Misplaced formalism
- Paradigm or idiom?
- The standpoint of irony (Plato)
- Epistemes, archaeology, Descartes

An ecological turn

- that any and all emergence should be understood as auto-eco-organisation.
- and
- that any and all 'information' should be understood as auto-exo-reference

An 'informational' turn

- Information in the double sense: (in)formed and informed.
- Many systems.
- Qualitative / Constructivist
- Principle of sufficiency / robustness
- Consequences: real, complex interactions vs formalism.

Alternatives to 'critical formalism'

- any and all emergence should be understood as auto-eco-organisation.
- and
- any and all 'information' should be understood as auto-exo-reference
- Plus: the dynamics of path dependency

Restricted and General Complexity

- The next adjacent possible (Kauffman)
- Thermal and informational dis-equilibrium.
- General Complexity
- 'Part /whole' reciprocity.
- Open and /or informed.
- Rethinking the social construct.
- Degrees of freedom / bounded possibilities

That frightening idea: Human nature

- The blank slate.
- Information flows.
- Post natal plasticity
- Nature as root / language
- Language and biosemiotics.
- The organism / environment 'smear'

Implications 1

- The limits of the *sui generis*.
- Two-way reductionism.
- The problematic definition of *social* phenomena.
- Is *sociology* possible?
- Compressing the incompressible.
- Fuzzy logic

Implications 2

- Fuzzy logic
- To a degree (belonging to s a set)
- To a degree (as a truth criterion)
- Risk description!
- Sociology as a fuzzy discipline.
- Social construction, nature & ethics: ethology, psychology.
- Material conditions.