Theory vs. Ideology

- Certainty of answers
- Type of knowledge system differs
- Type of assumptions differ
- Use of normative statements differ
- Use of evidence differs
- Demand for logical consistency differs
- Transparency differs
Theory vs. Ideology

- **Theory**
  - Conditional
  - Uncertainty
  - Expanding
  - Rigorously tested
  - Empirical evidence
  - Neutral
  - Logical

- **Ideology**
  - Absolute
  - Fixed
  - Avoids tests
  - Partial
  - Contradictory
  - Circular
Theory vs. Ideology

Example - Divorce

• Theory
  – Family are strongest when they have resources (income, education, housing, maturity, respect etc.) and low stress (constant employment, happy marriage, good health, etc).

• Ideology
  – Society is facing a moral decay leading to divorce, women working outside the home, and loss of the “traditional family”
Parts of a Theory

1) Assumptions

• Assumptions
Parts of a Theory

2) Concepts

- Theoretical concept
  - Symbol
  - Definition
  - Jargon

- Level of abstraction
Parts of a Theory

2) Concepts

• Single vs. concept clusters
  – Concept clusters

• Simple vs. complex concepts
  – Concept classification
  – Ideal type
  – Typology

• Scope
Parts of a Theory

2) Concepts

Example Box 3.1
Max Weber’s Ideal Type of Bureaucracy

- Bureaucracy is a continuous organization governed by a system of rules.
- Conduct is governed by detached, impersonal rules.
- There is division of labor in which different offices are assigned different spheres of competence.
- Hierarchical authority relations prevail; that is, lower offices are under control of higher ones.
- Administrative actions, rules, and so on are in writing and maintained in files.
- Individuals do not own and cannot buy or sell their offices.
- Officials receive salaries rather than receiving direct payment from clients in order to ensure loyalty to the organization.
- Property of the organization is separate from personal property of officeholders.

# Parts of a Theory

## 2) Concepts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 3.1 Robert Merton’s Modes of Individual Adaptation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODE OF ADAPTION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Conformity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Ritualism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV Retreatism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V Revolution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 3.2 Erik Wright’s System of Social Classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIAL CLASS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitalists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petite bourgeoisie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ means has control, – means has little or no control
Parts of a Theory

3) Relationships

- Kinds of relationships
  - Positive
  - Negative
  - Interaction effect
  - Contingent relationship

- Propositions
- Hypothesis
Parts of a Theory

4) Units of Analysis

- Individual
- Group
- Organization
- Region
- Country
Aspects of Theory

1) Direction of Theorizing

Deductive

- Deductive Approach
  - Theoretical Framework
  - Formal Theory
  - Substantive Theory

- Hypothesis Testing
- Empirical Social Reality

Inductive

- Inductive Approach
  - Theoretical Framework
  - Formal Theory
  - Substantive Theory

- Grounded Theorizing
- Concept Formation, Empirical Generalization
- Empirical Social Reality
Aspects of Theory
2) Level of Analysis

- Micro-level theory
- Macro-level theory
- Meso-level theory
Aspects of Theory

3) Focus of Theory

- Substantive theory
- Formal theory
Aspects of Theory

4) Forms of Explanation

- Theoretical explanation
- Prediction

FIGURE 3.2  Association of Income and Race
4) Forms of Explanation

- **Causal explanation**
  - Temporal order
  - Association
  - Eliminating alternatives
  - Specifying the mechanism in a causal relationship
    - Causal mechanism
  - Outlining the causal chain
Diagrams of Causal Relationships

Positive relationship

Positive and negative relationship

Positive path relationship
Diagrams of Causal Relationships

Complex relationships

d. Stress → Divorce
   Stress → Well-Adjusted Children
   Stress → Fighting

e. Resources → Fighting
   Stress → Fighting
   Fighting → Divorce
   Fighting → Well-Adjusted Children
Aspects of Theory
4) Forms of Explanation

- Structural explanation
  - Sequential theory
  - Network theory
  - Functional theory