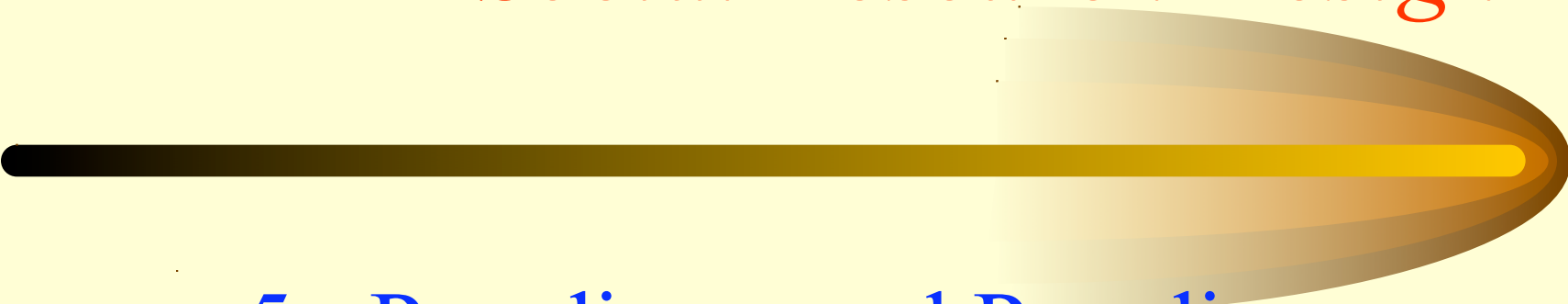


SOCIOLoGY 201:
Social Research Design

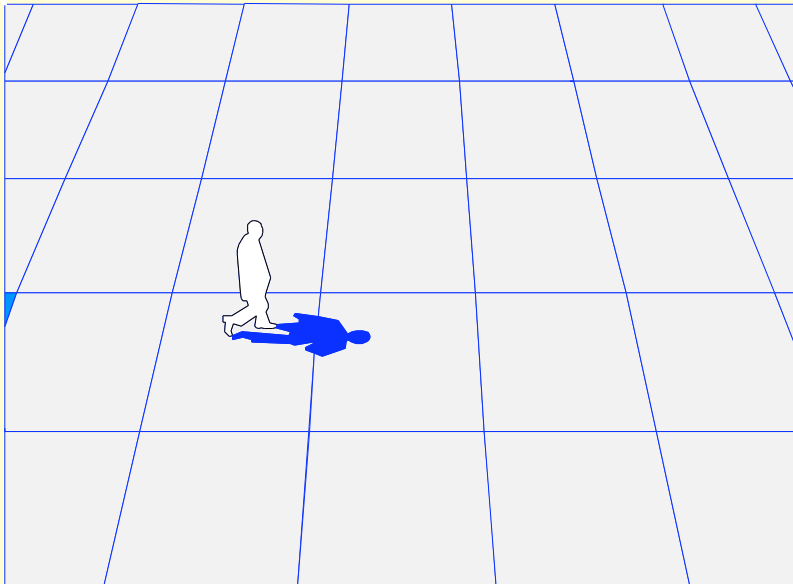


5: Paradigms and Paradigm
Shifts

Preview

- *Workbook assignment due: 3.3(15 pts)*
- Paradigms
 - Natural sciences
 - Social Sciences
- Postmodernism
- The Reality of Reality

What is a paradigm?



- Model or system or framework to think within or from
 - Theories are what we think within those paradigms
- Many of our paradigms are implicit
 - As we'll see, it's difficult to recognize a

Natural Science Paradigms



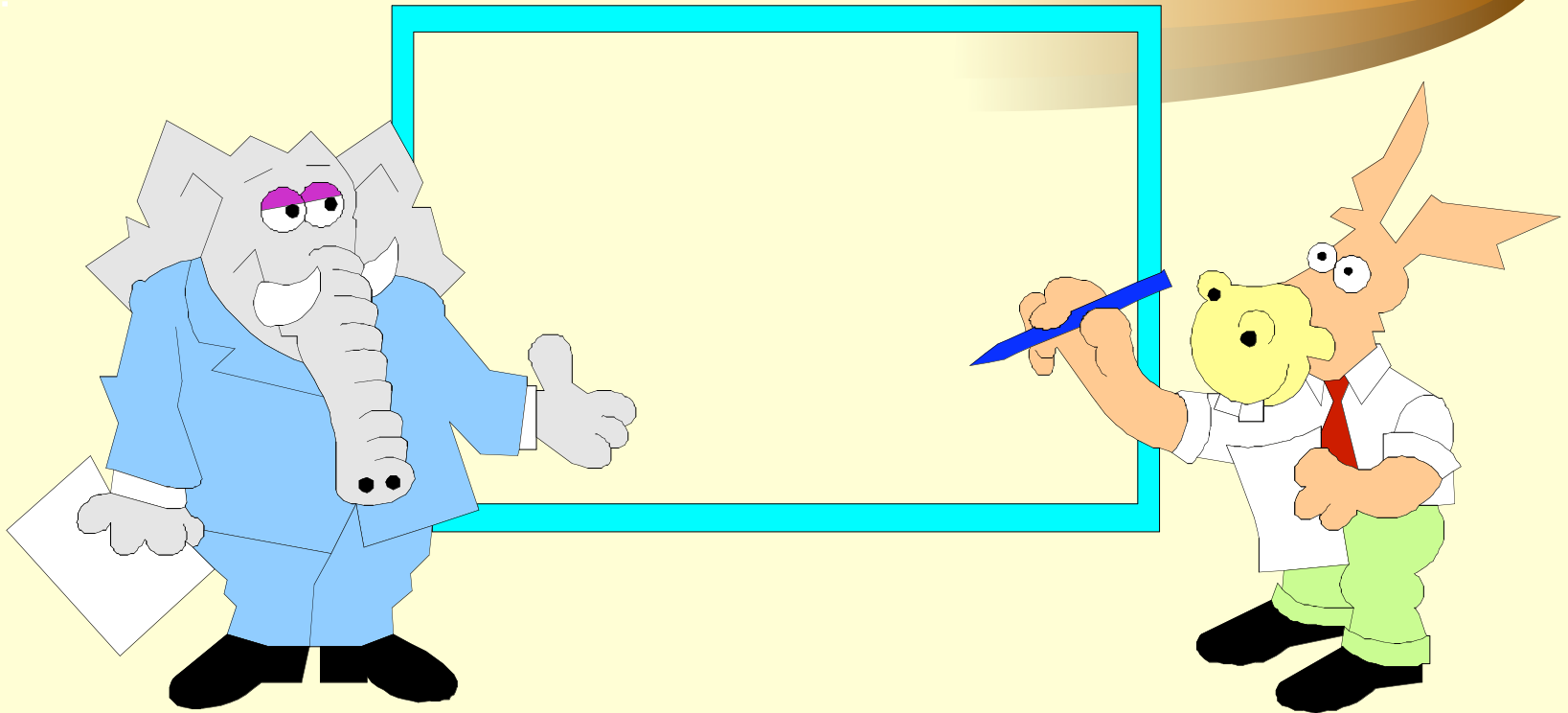
- Ptolemy vs Copernicus
- Aristotle vs Galileo on gravity
- Newton vs Einstein
- Light as wave or particle
- Darwinian evolution vs Creationism

Religious ideologies offer paradigms



Total = 27 slides

So do political ideologies



3 Major Sociological paradigms

- Interactionism
-
- Functionalism
-



Interactionist Paradigm



Total = 27 slides

Social Systems Paradigm (Functionalism)

Every piece has its part to
contribute to the whole



Total = 27 slides

Conflict Paradigm

Three sociologists selling furniture . . .



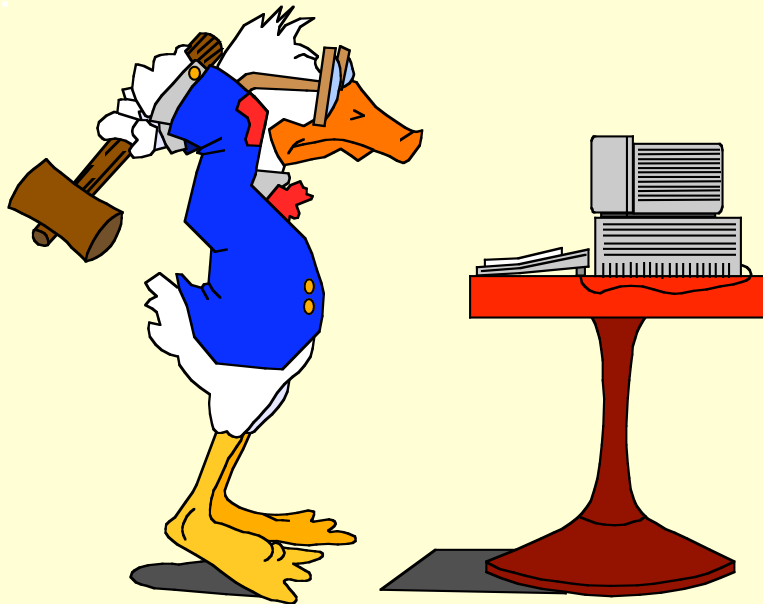
- **Interactionist:** “Buy this love seat so you and your honey can really get together.”
-
- **Functionalist:** “Every home needs a spare bed for when friends stay over.”
-
- **Conflict theorist:** “How about a king-sized bed? Your neighbors just bought a queen-sized bed.”

... *planning a dinner party.* ...



- **Interactionist:** “How about fondue for an appetizer? That’ll give everyone a chance to get together and chat.”
-
- **Functionalist:** “Good idea. The cheese will provide lots of protein.”
-
- **Conflict theorist:** “But some of our fondue forks are longer than others. People will fight for the longest forks.”

...spending time in college...



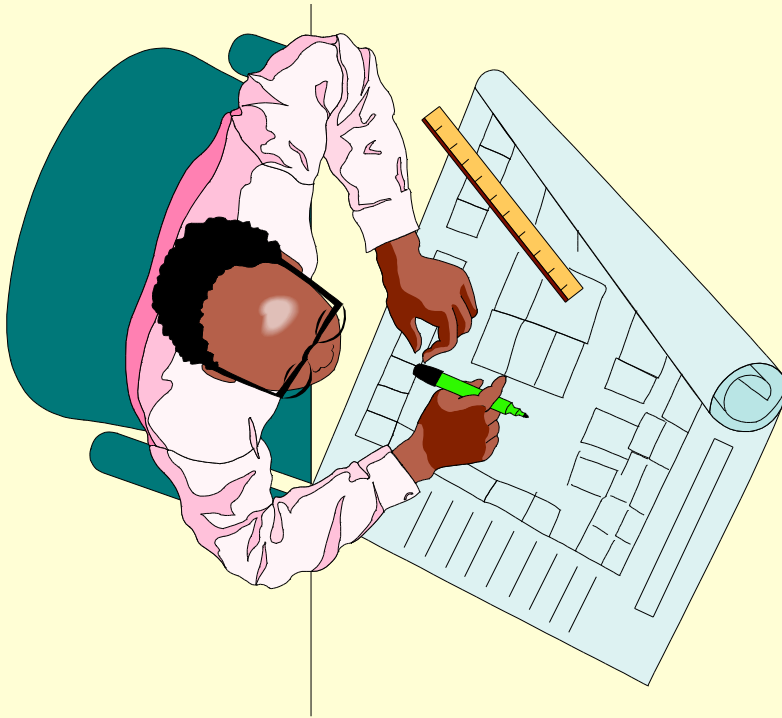
- Interactionist:
Cocktail parties
-
- Functionalist:
Computer programming
-
- Conflict theorist:
Debate team

...or training the dog.



- Interactionist: “Shake hands!”
-
- Functionalist: “Fetch!”
-
- Conflict theorist: “Kill!”

Some other paradigms



- Social Darwinism
- Role Theory
- Ethnomethodology
- Exchange Theory
- Feminist Theories
- Rational-Choice Theory

Post-modernist point of view

- Many sciences founded on a *positivistic* assumptions
 - There is an *objective* reality
 - We can *observe* it ever more *accurately*
 - We can *understand* it ever more *fully*
- Postmodernism calls these assumptions into question

Three modes of thinking

- **Pre-modern:** There is reality and I see it as it is
-
- **Modern:** There is a reality but we all see it through our personal biases
-
- **Post-modern:** There may not be a reality at all, only our subjective



Consider the reality of reality

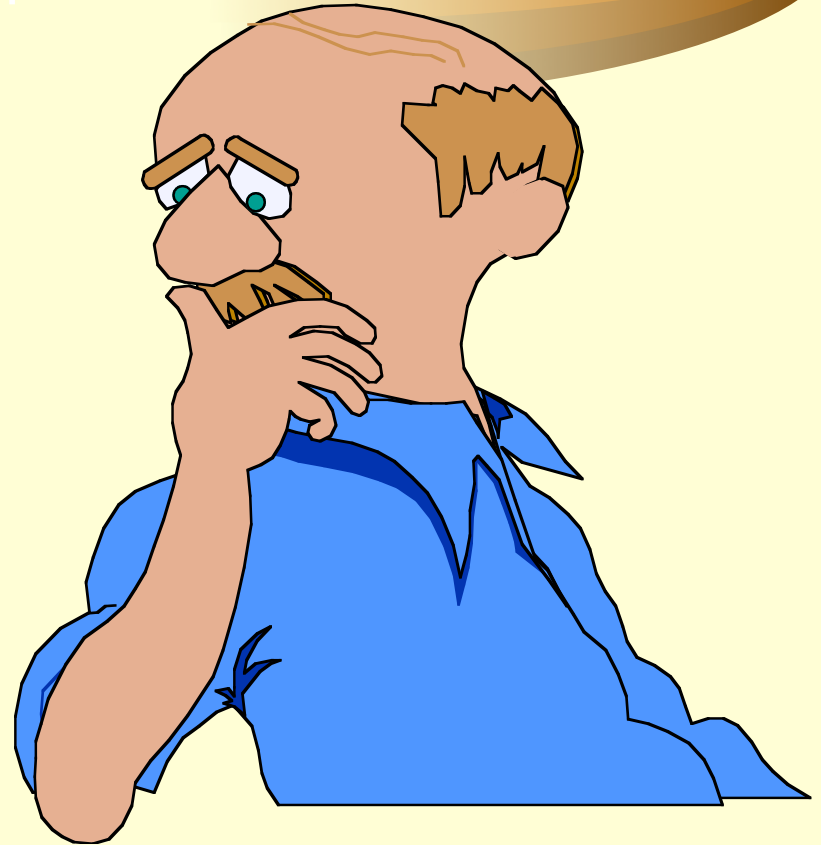


- Imagine husband and wife fighting
- Imagine each one's view of what's happening
 - What does it look like to the husband?
 - What does it look like to the



Outside observer?

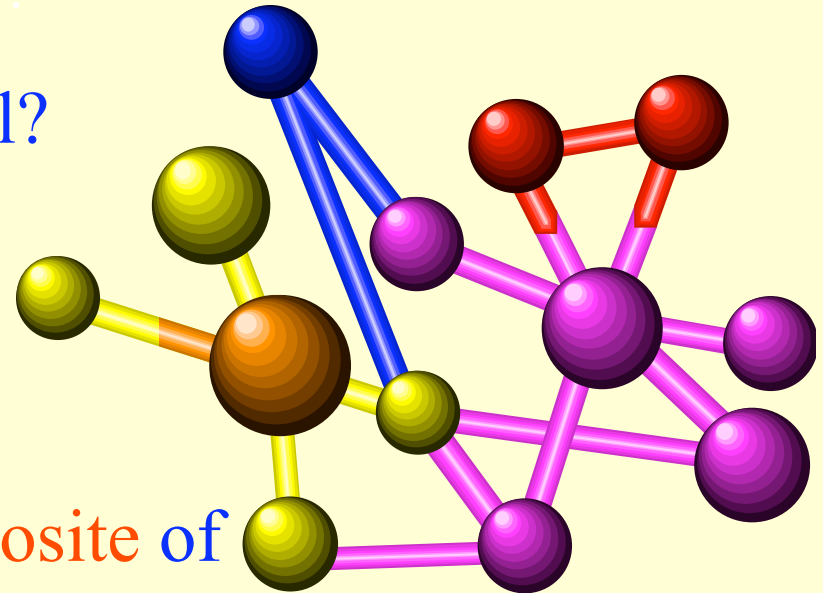
- Feminist observer
- Male chauvinist observer
- Freudian analyst
- Jungian analyst
- “They’re both wrong”
- “Both are struggling to do their best. . .”



We think reality is something rational

- Are people rational?
-
- Are researchers rational?
-
- What is rationality?
-
- What would be the **opposite** of rationality? -- Let's discuss it --

>



Form small groups

- Discuss **rationality**
- What does it mean to you?
- What would be an *alternative*?



Rationality

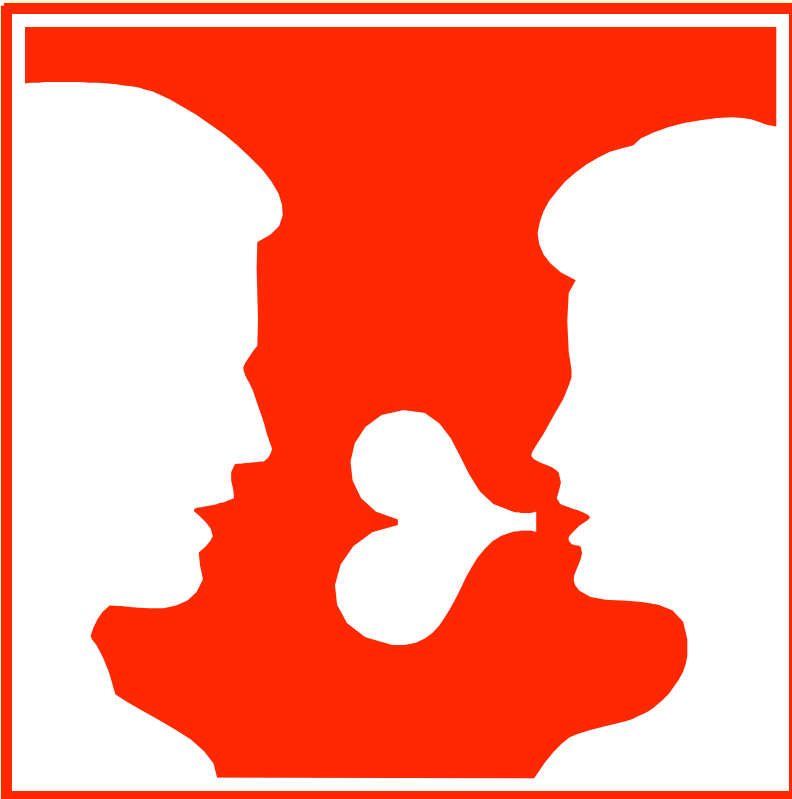
- Nonrationality vs irrationality
 - Love, poetry, music, painting
 - Intuition
 - Creativity?
 - Will see next time that rationality=determinism
- Can't go beyond paradigm by using it
 - Transparadigmatic thinking is difficult to

From The Sociological Spirit



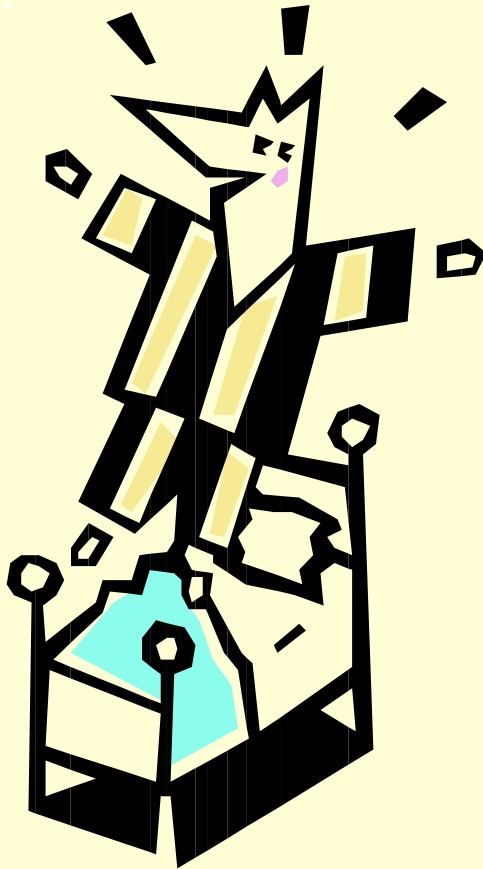
- Rationality may have given us Teflon, but it isn't much good for the experience of poetry.
- Further, it has little to contribute to the experience of love or of making love.
- In a moment of passion, for example, when your partner shouts, "God! I love it!" don't ask how much or point out that you are not actually a god.

From The Sociological Spirit



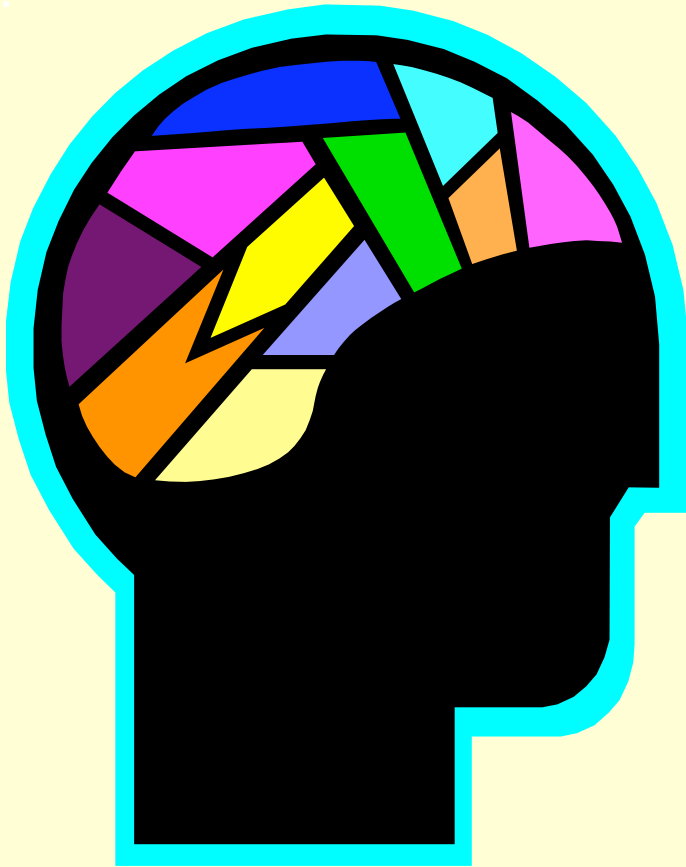
- Rational sociological paradigms aren't much use at such a moment, either.
- Don't go **functionalist** and ask, "Do you want to know how this works?"
- Don't put on your **interactionist** cap and ask, "What exactly does this symbolize?"

From The Sociological Spirit



- And no matter how strongly you may be committed to a **conflict** perspective,
- never say,
- “Did you know this is what capitalism does to the working class?”

esp *Research Problem*



- Paranormal psych finds people with *psi*
- Skeptic asks to observe
- Now, subjects fail
- Two explanations
- How to choose between them: choice, faith, belief

Next Time



- **“The Nature of Causation”**
- Read Chapter 3