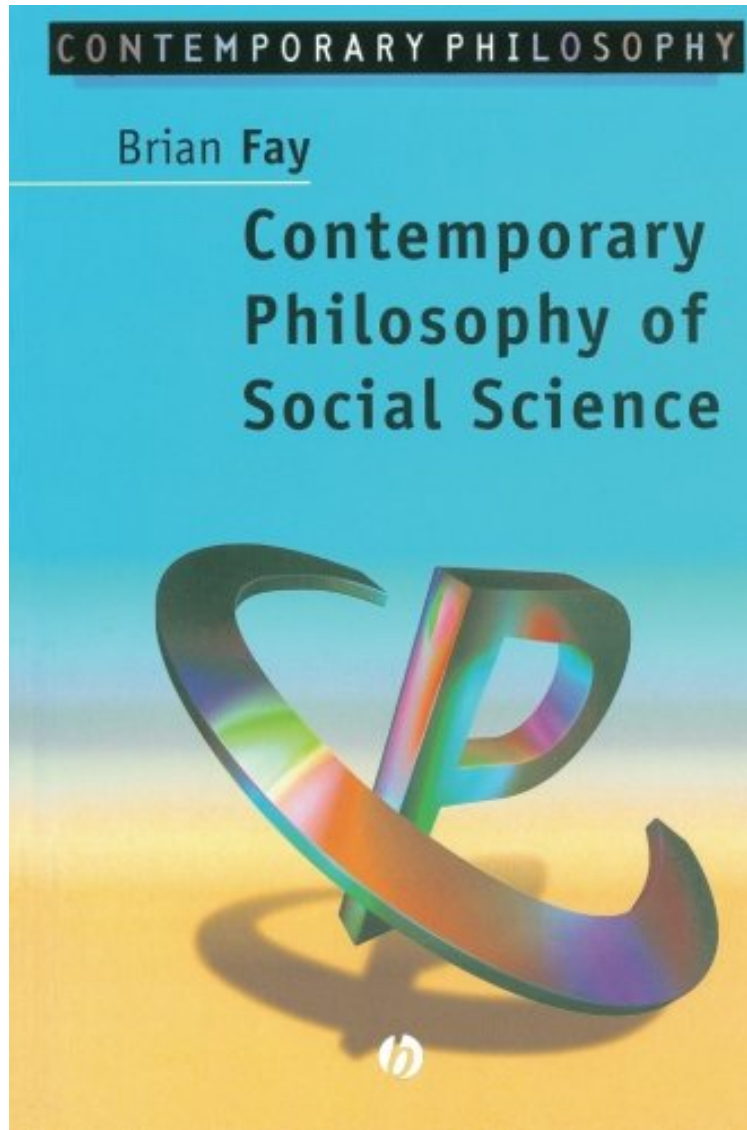


# Contemporary Philosophy of Social Science: A Multicultural Approach

Brian Fay

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#1260998 in Books Wiley-Blackwell 1996-08-16 1996-08-03Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.10 x .90 x 6.04l, .96 #File Name: 1557865388278 pages | File size: 74.Mb

**Brian Fay : Contemporary Philosophy of Social Science: A Multicultural Approach** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Contemporary Philosophy of Social Science: A Multicultural Approach:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. GoodBy JadenThis is a good book. It's an interesting and slanted introduction to the philosophical issues surrounding social science (Fay takes a decidedly multicultural approach, is

pretty anti-positivist, and likes to take the philosophical middle-ground in the issues he discusses). Some of the chapters are more tightly argued than others and some are more boring than others, but overall this is a solid book with an interesting and informed take on the issues. Recommended. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fay's ideas need to be widely read. By C. Notess Fay's book presents a very clear description of 12 theses in what he called "a multicultural philosophy of social science." His view goes beyond the dualistic views of pre-postmodern philosophy and social science. His book will be useful for undergraduate students, graduate students, and laymen wishing to understand a world in which many people seem to live with a very narrow perspective of our globalizing and multicultural world. Cultures seem to clash when people do not share experiences with those living in the clashing cultures. The clashing cultures can be Muslim vs. Western industrial cultures, one tribal culture vs. a neighboring tribal culture, and in the 2008 election year Republicans vs. Democrats. As a research engineer and later a local government planner before retiring, I have spent the last several years expanding my worldviews to encompass those of Muslims in the US, and in the Middle East, those of Republicans and Democrats, Americans with narrow though focused worldviews and others with broad worldviews. Unfortunately many newscasters and journalists seem not to have digested Fay's ideas and they relish the support of audiences with narrow perspectives to which they can appeal. Some of my ideas seem to follow Fay's approach on a simpler level. They are on a simpler level, because I am familiar with and have interacted with people with narrow perspectives working for city and county governments, and with some engineers, business men, elected officials and the like. My focus has been to understand the causes of polarization in our legislatures, political parties and in world affairs. I highly recommend Fay's book. I wish Fay's ideas would be more widely studied in colleges and in discussion groups. You can view some of my ideas at [notess.com/cn] 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Readable, groundbreaking, textbook By Berel Dov Lerner Other introductory texts in the philosophy of the social sciences tend to concentrate on rational-agent models and the classic debates over the place of nomothetic (law-based) explanations in the human sciences. This book is the first to offer a genuinely introductory account of the philosophical problems involved in interpretative social science, i.e. social science geared towards gaining an understanding of the meaning of other people's actions. Fay manages to explain practically all of the important issues involved, weaving them into a fairly natural progression of ideas that arise from the the decision to try to understand the speech and actions of someone belonging to a different culture or historical period (see the table of contents on the book's webpage for details). My only complaint regarding the book is that it does not really offer enough of an overview of the structure and history of the debates surrounding the ideas it explains - who said what and in which intellectual context.

This volume provides a lucid and distinct introduction to multiculturalism and the philosophy of social science. Distinct, engaging and timely 'multicultural' approach Clear, non-technical overview of the nature of social inquiry First volume of outstanding new "Contemporary Philosophy" series

"It is penetrating in its discussion of the issues but written in an engaging and accessible way. Highly recommended." Choice "In a textbook fashion that is accessible to undergraduate and graduate students alike, Fay offers a multicultural/dialectical approach to social inquiry that is designed to eliminate the traditional dualistic way of thinking that currently dominates the philosophy of social science. For those who are wont to explore the many questions that philosophers of social science are most interested in examining, I would definitely suggest Fay's book. He clearly articulates and assesses many of the difficult arguments in the philosophy of social science." *Philosophia*, Vol 28, June 2001 From the Back Cover This volume offers a new and distinct multicultural approach to the philosophy of social science. In providing a complete introductory overview of the nature of social inquiry, Fay explores issues inherent in the study of human beings from the perspective of cultural and social difference. Among the important topics explored are: the self and its relation to others; culture and society; rationality and intelligibility; relativism and objectivity; and the relation of history to social science. Although the book appropriates insights from hermeneutics, poststructuralism, and critical theory, in addition to the analytic philosophy of social science, it is written in a clear non-technical style. It provides the ideal text for students in the philosophy of social science, for those engaged in social science, and for those interested in multiculturalism. About the Author Brian Fay is Professor of Philosophy at Wesleyan University, Connecticut. His publication include *Social Theory and Political Practice* (1975) and *Critical Social Science* (1987). He is Executive Editor of the *Journal History and Theory*.