

Postmodern Theory

Sociology

The claim that the categories classical sociology relied on have come apart.

Modern account

- Grand narratives of progress and reason
- Identity anchored in class and nation
- Production as the organising activity
- Knowledge cumulative and improvable
- Structures that endure across lifetimes

Postmodern account

- Incredulity toward grand narratives
- Identity as chosen, plural and shifting
- Consumption as the site of meaning
- Knowledge local and situated
- Fluid, media-saturated social forms

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Contested. Critics answer that class, capital and the state kept working while theory looked elsewhere.

Educational reference. Useful for identity and media; weak where the question is material inequality.