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COGNITION AND EXPLANATION IN THE SOCIAL STUDY OF SCIENCE

*Abstract*

Social studies of science, as in general sociology, fall often in causal fallacies because they are not able to individuate true causal chains that link social variables to individual actions. Methodological Cognitivism proposes an alternative methodological model that aims at establishing correct explanations of the connections between social variables and scientific action. The explanation rely on causal cognitive mechanisms that drive reasoning and decision making processes. The paper presents some arguments in favour of this approach and an example of its application.