

Talcott Parsons

Quotes

*Facts, Science, Elements, Theory, Structure, Problem, Development, Function,
May, Alternatives, Bourgeoisie, Reason, Paper, Ends, Interesting, Stage,
Answers, States, Importance, Body*

If there are four equations and only three variables, and no one of the equations is derivable from the others by algebraic manipulation then there is another variable missing.

~Talcott Parsons

Theory not only formulates what we know but also tells us what we want to know, that is, the questions to which an answer is needed.

~Talcott Parsons

If capitalism begins as the practical idealism of the aspiring bourgeoisie, it ends ... as an orgy of materialism.

~Talcott Parsons

Sociology should... be thought of as a science of action-of the ultimate common value element in its relations to the other elements of action.

~Talcott Parsons

Spencers god was Evolution, sometimes also called Progress.

~Talcott Parsons

If observed facts of undoubted accuracy will not fit any of the alternatives it leaves open, the system itself is in need of reconstruction.

~Talcott Parsons

But the fact a person denies that he is theorising is no reason for taking him at his word and failing to investigate what implicit theory is involved in his statements.

~Talcott Parsons

A gloss is a total system of perception and language.

~Talcott Parsons

The part an actor played on stage was once written on a separate roll

of paper.

~Talcott Parsons

The importance of certain problems concerning the facts will be inherent in the structure of the system.

~Talcott Parsons

Special emphasis should be laid on this intimate interrelation of general statements about empirical fact with the logical elements and structure of theoretical systems.

~Talcott Parsons

The functions of the family in a highly differentiated society are not to be interpreted as functions directly on behalf of the society, but on behalf of personality.

~Talcott Parsons

A theoretical system does not merely state facts which have been observed and that logically deducible relations to other facts which have also been observed.

~Talcott Parsons

Empirical interest will be in the facts so far as they are relevant to the solution of these problems.

~Talcott Parsons

But the scientific importance of a change in knowledge of fact consists precisely in its having consequences for a system of theory.

~Talcott Parsons

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