

Virtual Structures in Sociocultural Systems

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Abstract

The Existence of separated and opposed paradigms is a real obstacle of further progress of the behavioural sciences. These considerations are understood as a contribution to this paradigmatic discussion in order to overcome a detrimental scientific cleavage by way of systematic and comparative analysis of biological and cultural behaviour programmes. In the context of an evolutionist view, both can be considered as moments of a principally identical movement, but as differing stages of progress. Furthermore, despite their irreducibility, they are obviously disposing of corresponding structural patterns. Various theretical approches from a variety of research fields where those questions arise in a respectively peculiar manner (e. g. runaway-theory of epigamous phenomena; needs pyramid, culture theory, cagnitivism) may provide useful arguments. By that, we proceed on the assumption of a continuum in between the extremes of determination and autonomy. In the end, the autonomy of cultural systems is incessantly growing, but becomes in no stage really absolute maintaining equivalent elementary structures of biological origin. Cultural systems are, so to speak, copies with self-referential and recursive features.