

The background of the slide features a light teal color with several thick, expressive black brushstrokes. These strokes are oriented diagonally, with some running from the top-left towards the bottom-right, and others from the top-right towards the bottom-left, creating a dynamic, abstract pattern.

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Social constructionism
Post-structuralism

WINTER TERM 2024

timeline – sociology as multiparadigmatic science

beginning of the XXth century

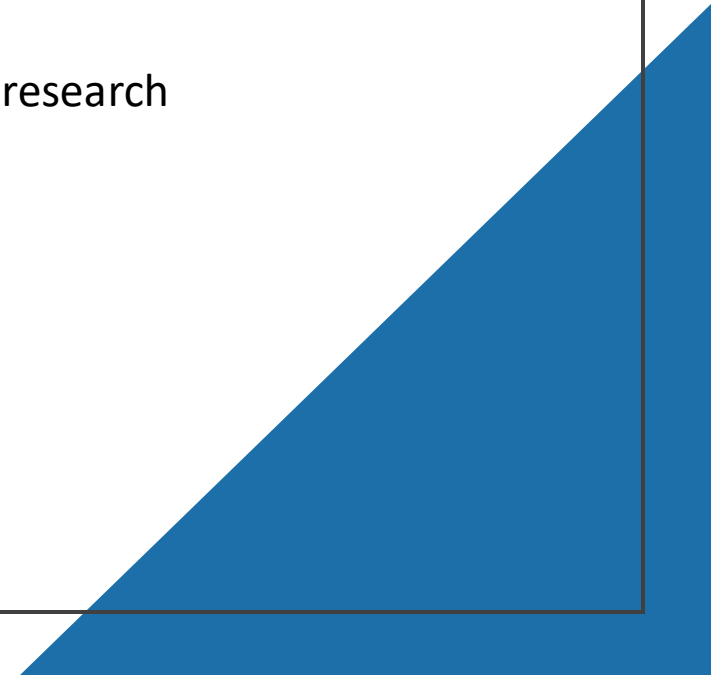
2024



Symbolic interactionism – beginning of the XXth century till today

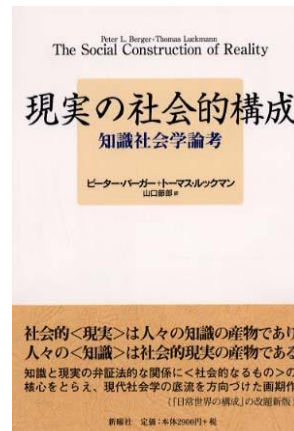
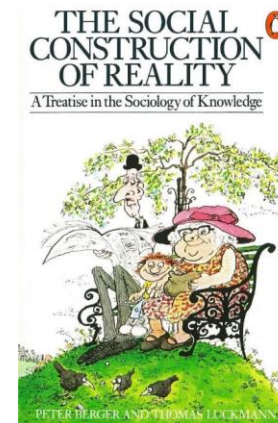
Structural functionalism – after the WW2 till 1970s; mostly in USA; quantitative research

Social constructionism – since 1967 till today; a breakthrough in sociology



social constructionism (a sociological theory of knowledge)

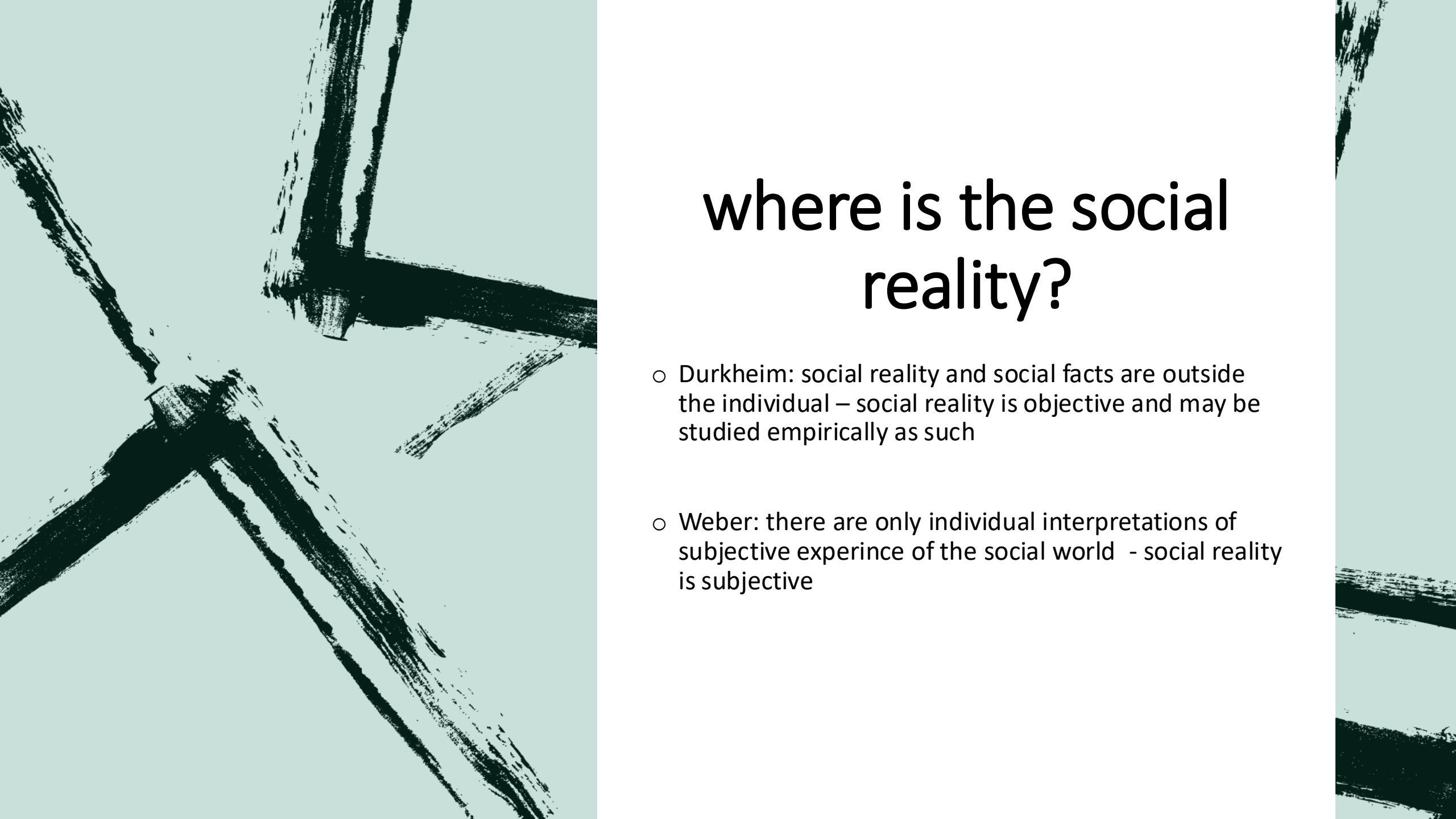
- 1967 – *The Social Construction of Reality* Peter L. Berger, Thomas Luckmann
- a new paradigm in sociology and sociology of knowledge
- social reality is social construct, everything in society is socially constructed



social constructionism (a sociological theory of knowledge)

THE SOCIAL REALITY OF EVERYDAY LIFE

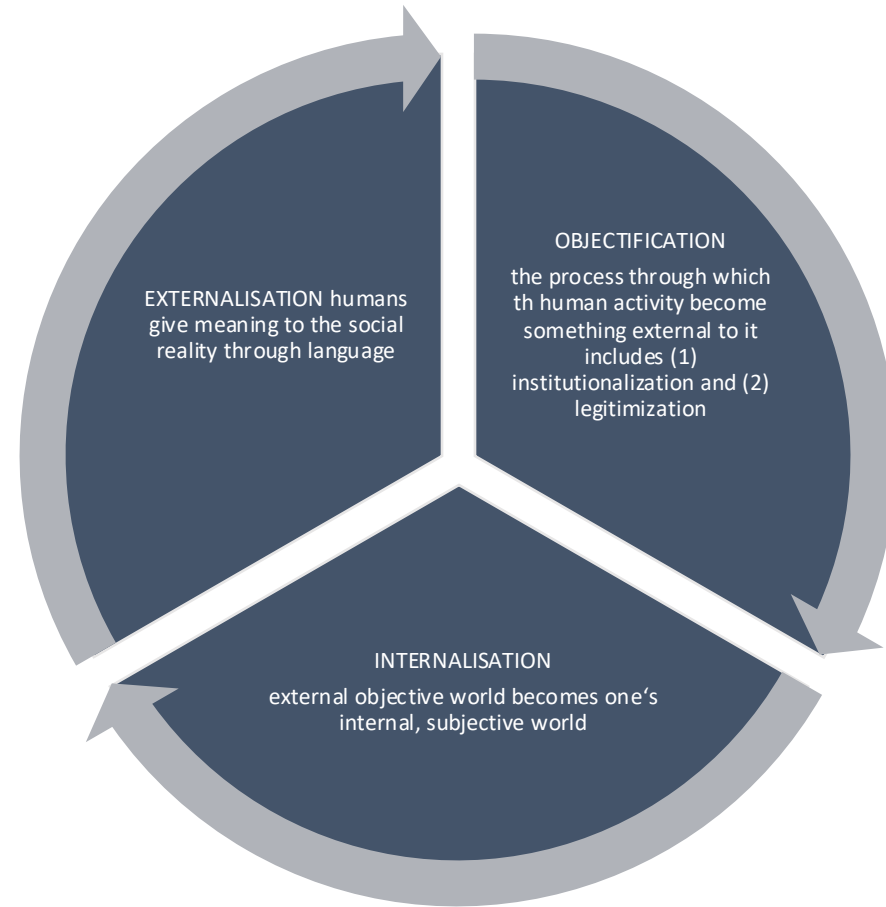
- **intersubjective world of everyday experience** - objectification of subjective processes – thanks to a symbolic language
- **the social reality is objectified in advance** - some objects existed in the social world before us
- is embedded & being created in everyday interactions



where is the social reality?

- Durkheim: social reality and social facts are outside the individual – social reality is objective and may be studied empirically as such
- Weber: there are only individual interpretations of subjective experience of the social world - social reality is subjective

where is the social reality?



...it is in the process of ongoing construction of social reality

socialisation (according to Berger & Luckmann)

SOCIALISATION – the process of learning and becoming a member of a society

PRIMARY – takes place within a narrow circle of significant others

SECONDARY – takes place within various social institutions – schools, religious communities, nations, subculture groups, etc. (generalised others)

KEY NOTION: the transition from the primary to secondary phase -> to understand the complexity of social world, social norms and social roles

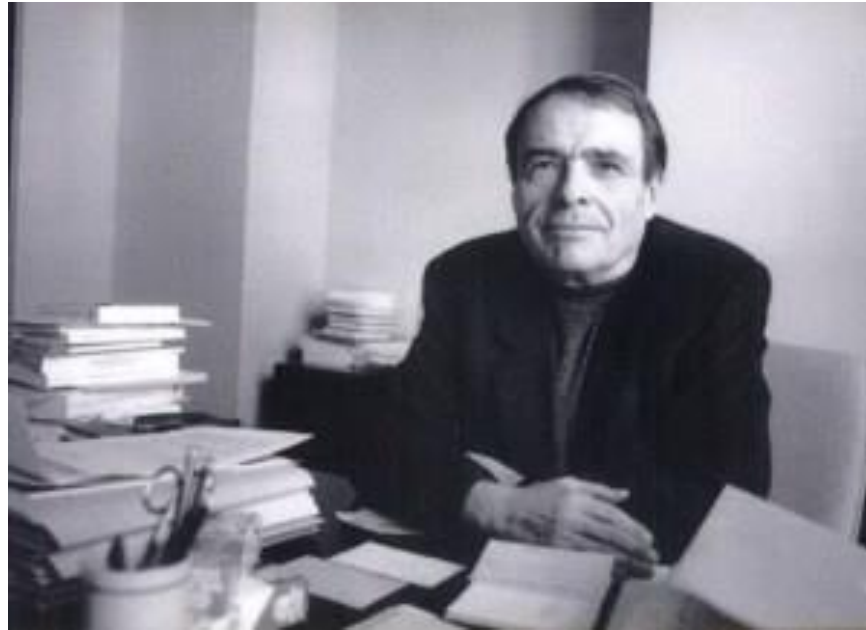
Where is society?

US SOCIOLOGY: MICRO-MACRO INTEGRATION

EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGY: AGENCY STRUCTURE- INTEGRATION

Pierre Bourdieu

(1930-2002)



- French sociologist
- profesor at Collège de France
- public intelectual
- critic of the French society

constructivist structuralism

- no opposition between subjectivism and objectivism
- dialectic between social structure and the way people construct social reality

habitus



MENTAL OR COGNITIVE STRUCTURES
THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE DEAL WITH
THE SOCIAL WORLD



A PRODUCT OF COLLECTIVE HISTORY



IT CONSTRAINS THOUGHT AND
CHOICE, BUT DOES NOT DETERMINE
THEM

capitals



Economic



Cultural – various kinds of legitimate knowledge



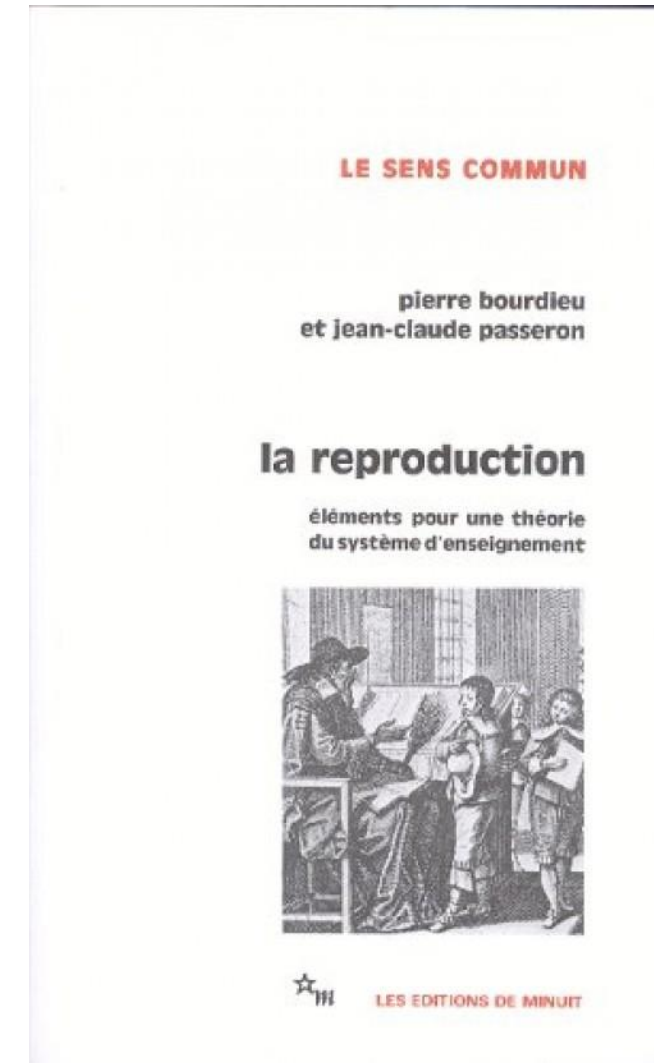
Social – valued social relations



Symbolic – one's honor and prestige

Reproduction in Education, Society and Culture (1970), with Jean-Claude Passeron

The system of education is the system of class and power reproduction; major institution through which the symbolic violence is practiced on people...



Distinction (1979)

- Aesthetic preferences in society
- Taste-class relationship: art, food, sport, hairstyle...
- Definition of culture as an object of scientific study – from anthropology („low” and „high” culture)

