

Intellectual disciplines and Semiotics

– Harald Schweizer, Tübingen –

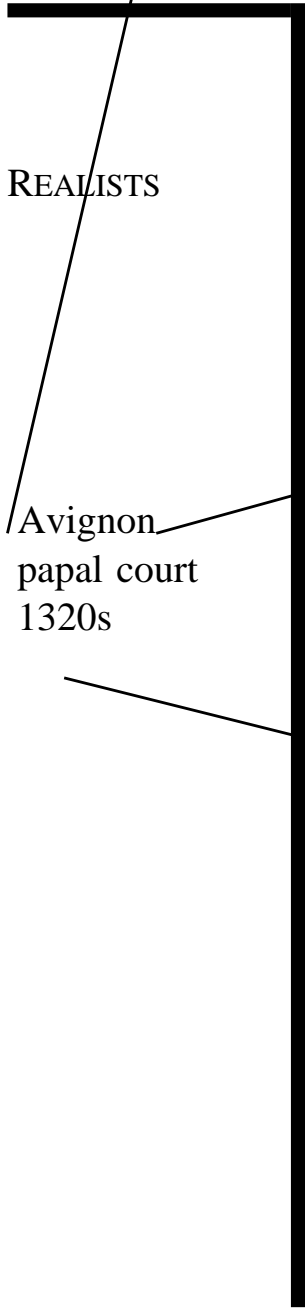
Lyon/2004
Semiotics

Oxford/London
NOMINALISTS
e.g. *William
of Ockham*

Avignon
papal court
1320s

Munich
1330–47

Lyon / 2004
Semiotics



REALISTS

Oxford/London
NOMINALISTS
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REALISTS

truth =
adaequatio
rei et intellectus

ontology

language conveys
world

reference

NOMINALISTS

truth =
question of terms (*universalia*),
logic, communication,
correct inferences

any science is based on signs

no representation of world
by language

early semiotic turn

mental models, structures (= *ontologies*
in the misleading terminology of
modern Computer science !)

Catholic
church /
theology

Immanuel Kant

1724 – 1804

Charles S. Peirce

1839 – 1914

Ferdinand de Saussure

1857 – 1913

»naive realism«
(JOHN LYONS)

General Systems Theory

e.g. *Niklas Luhmann*

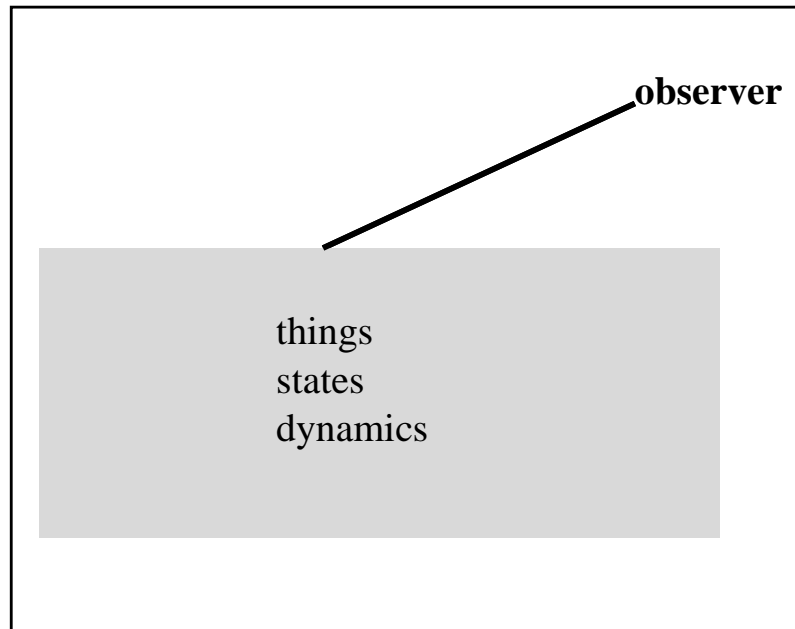
1927 – 1998

everyday
language

Cognitive Sciences



after the cognitive / semiotic turn:





individual language / culture:

specific segmentation of the world

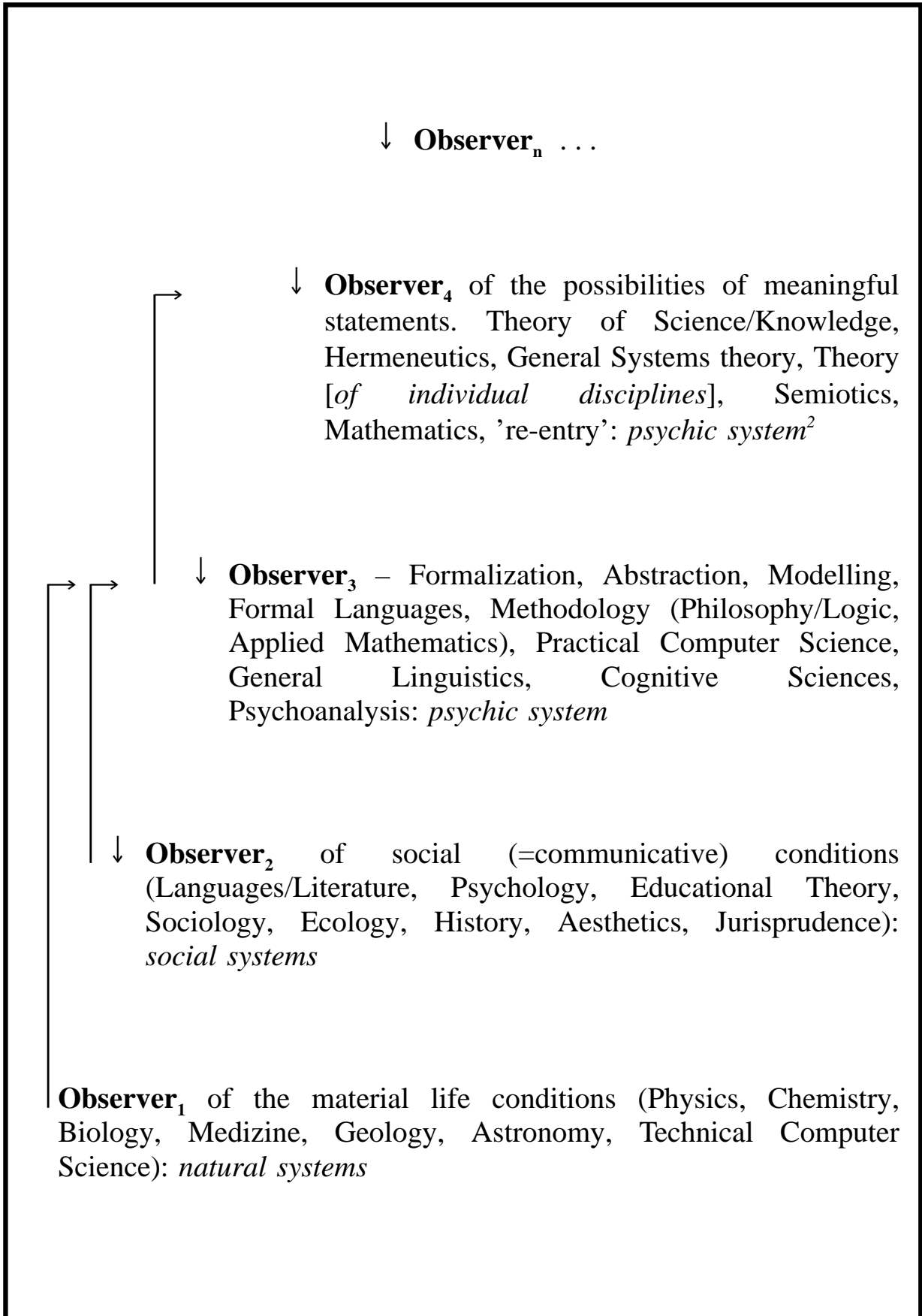
observer (as scientist)

- choice of thematic fields (*isotopies*) \cong exclusion of others
- narrow definition of terms – in contrast to every day language
- strategy 1: exclusion of connotations in favor of denotation
- strategy 2: metaphorical language as type of tentative scientific model
- attempt to amplify knowledge about the world segment
- new knowledge must be confirmed within scientific communication – otherwise it is futile
- any observer can be observed: *How* does he/she observe the resp. thematic domain?

What are facts? What is real?

DONALD T. CAMPBELL:

**»Facts may be microtheories
no longer controversial
within the scientific community«.**



What is the basis of all dichotomies?

Dangerous *pairs* of terms:

»natural sciences« vs. »humanities«
»Naturwissenschaften« vs. »Geisteswissenschaften«

JOHN SEARLE:

**»What we are all aiming at in intellectual disciplines ...
is knowledge and understanding,
whether we have it
in mathematics,
literary criticism,
history,
physics,
or philosophy.«**

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text of the contribution:

<http://www-ct.informatik.uni-tuebingen.de/daten/lyon1.pdf>

transparencies:

<http://www-ct.informatik.uni-tuebingen.de/daten/lyon2.pdf>

Objections, commentaries welcome!