

Wittgenstein and the Idea of a Critical Social Theory: A Critique of Giddens, Habermas and Bhaskar, 224 pages, 2002, 9780203056059, Nigel Pleasants, Taylor & Francis, 2002

Wittgenstein and the idea of a critical social theory : a critique of Giddens, Habermas, and Bhaskar. Item Preview. > remove-circle. He both revolutionised the subject of philosophy and made a profound impact on many disciplines across the spectrum of the humanities and the social sciences. In this book Nigel Pleasants examines Wittgenstein's influence on, and implications for, contemporary social and political theory."--BOOK JACKET. "It will provide an important new perspective for researchers and students of social sciences in general, political science, philosophy, social and political theory, and sociologists."--Jacket. Includes bibliographical references (pages 197-202) and indexes. Print version record. Access-restricted Pleasants focuses on the "critical social theory" of Giddens, Habermas and Bhaskar each one of whom has endeavoured to assimilate Wittgenstein's philosophy to his own theoretical perspective. The distinctiveness of Pleasants's approach lies in prioritising Wittgenstein's rejection of philosophical theory and explanation. In consequence of this, my critique of critical social theory will not be based upon any allegedly superior "Wittgensteinian social theory". I shall follow Wittgenstein in not claiming to be in possession of any special insight into (social and political) reality. 2. Wittgenstein, A Social Theory of Knowledge. [Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire?]: Macmillan; New York: Columbia University Press, 1983. ABSTRACT: This book is an attack on the philosophy of the logical positivist and logical analyst schools. The author, a dialectical or scientific materialist, sees the positivist and analytical schools as implicit idealism. The discussion covers the historical context from Bacon to Mach and then turns to the twentieth century. the author concludes the work with a comparison of the logical positivist philosophy of science and his own philosophy of scientific materialism. Cornish, Kimberley. Wittgenstein and the Idea of a Critical Social Theory: A Critique of Giddens, Habermas and Bhaskar. London; New York : Routledge, 1999. Robinson, Guy. Wittgenstein and the Idea of a Critical Social Theory: A Critique of Giddens, Habermas, and Bhaskar. Nigel Pleasants. Routledge (1999). This book uses the philosophy of Wittgenstein as a perspective from which to challenge the idea of a critical social theory, represented pre-eminently by Giddens, Habermas and Bhaskar. Keywords. Social sciences Philosophy. Categories. Jürgen Habermas in Continental Philosophy. Ludwig Wittgenstein in 20th Century Philosophy. Philosophy of Social Science. Key words critical social theory, Giddens, Habermas, Wittgenstein I INTRODUCTION When Winch published his short monograph, The Idea of a Social Science, in 1958, few practitioners or theorists of the social sciences had any inkling that Wittgenstein's philosophy might have significance for their disciplines. At the time, these disciplines were imbued with the spirit of positivism and subscribed to a broadly empiricist epistemology. The Idea of a Social Science encountered a storm of indignant criticism Downloaded from hhs.sagepub.com at University of Exeter on March 31, 2016 W I N C H A N D