

Minimalist Epistemological Hierarchy

Level	Scheme	Philosophy of Method
6	Meta Scheme 4 META-LANGUAGE CRITICAL THEORY OF THEORIES Examination of Implicit Theoretical Framework, Theoretical Potential for One Theory Vs A Family of More Domain Specific Theories	Higher Order Evaluations Open-textured expanding contextualization; Comparative perspectives, e.g., sociology of knowledge, anthropology, history, child psychology and evolutionary biology; Natural philosophy Vs theology
5	Meta Scheme 3 HIGHER ORDER THEORY Upgrade Generative Scheme, Comparison of Generative Schemes That Have Similar And Different Source Schemes, Clarification of Theoretical Relations Between Generative Schemes And Source Schemes, The Upgraded Focal Generative Scheme Is Placed Into This Broader Theoretical Frame	Second Level of Explanation Superinduction (consilience) of new conceptualizations; Creation and new integrations of conceptual devices; Explication of diversity of implication/consequentiality; Colligation of facts and confirmed empirical generalizations from different Source Schemes
4	Meta Scheme 2 META-LANGUAGE METHODOLOGICAL ANALYSES OF SUBSYSTEMS AND OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE SIMULACRUM Part-whole Relations and Logical Organization, Critical Theory of the Generative Scheme As a First Order Explanation	First Level of Evaluation Supplemental-ancillary principles: Clarity; Consistence; Coherence; Insolubilia (paradoxes , logical limits, pyrrhonic tropes); Parsimony; Comparabilities; DIF criteria of evidence; Check for fallacies and self-deception; Reflection on implications and consequences
3	Meta Scheme 1 FIRST ORDER LOGICAL GENERATIVE SCHEME Conjecture, Generalization, Translation Modalities, Simulation of the Data Scheme	First Level of Explanation Colligation of facts and confirmed generalizations; Considerations of taxonomy; Creation of hypotheses about causalities; Simplification and preliminary modeling
2	Data Scheme Observations or Specifications of Actual or Desired States, Conditions and Conceptualization of the Source Scheme	Subject Matter Questions raised; Claims made; Systematic recording of observations and presentation of relevant information
1	Source Scheme Populations, Variables, Multiple Environments, Domain	Objects of Inquiry Problems identified; Variables specified; Multiple environments recognized; Preliminary setting of boundaries