

1. STATING THE PROBLEM: What Are “Micro-foundations” and Why Bother?

1.1 model of action

Individual subjects are subjectively characterized by:

(a) *preferences*. (b) *information*. (c) *theories*. (d) *mental capacities*. (e) *nonconscious psychic processes*

They are objectively characterized by:

(f) *resources*. (g) *causal environment of choosing*. (h) *a causal environment of the effects of their actions*

1.2 Four aspects of Micro-foundations:

- (1). Micro-mechanisms of consciousness formation
- (2). The micro-mechanisms of nonconsciousness formation
- (3). Micro-process of choice-making
- (4). Micro-processes of creative action, problem-solving

1.3 Why Bother?

1.4 A difficult problem: the moral standing of strategies to transform beliefs

2. TYPES OF EXPLANATIONS OF IDEOLOGIES (465ff in Elster)

2.1. Autonomy of Thought

2.2 Types of Explanations

a. *interest* explanations vs. *position* explanations

b. *causal* explanations vs. *functional* explanations

- position explanations are always causal; interests explanations can be either
- Note: a belief that is shaped by interests need not serve those interests

c. Examples:

- interest-functional explanation
- interest-causal explanation
- position-casual explanations

2.3 Cognitive and Motivational explanations

		EXPLANANDUM	
		<i>MOTIVATIONAL</i>	<i>COGNITIVE</i>
EXPLANATION	<i>MOTIVATIONAL</i>	adaptive preferences	wishful thinking
	<i>COGNITIVE</i>	mental bookkeeping	availability heuristic

3. MECHANISMS FOR RULING IDEAS TO BECOME RULING

4. MECHANISMS OF IDEOLOGICAL BELIEF FORMATION

4.1. Inversion

4.2. **Particular & general interest:** wishful thinking as the mechanism linked to moral impulse

4.3. **Local & global vision**

4.4. **Conceptual imperialism**