

Examrace

Mertonian Norms: CUDOS, Communalism, Universalism and Disinterestedness

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- The Normative Structure of Science, 1973
- Merton was the first thinker who applied Sociology to Science
- He belongs to the Old School
- He outlined the norms or values that govern scientific communities
- Ethos of science or values of science
- Norms and culture of scientific researchers
- Morally right for researcher
- They are informal in expression and transmission
- Guidelines to develop practices
- Work as ethical advice

CUDOS

Communalism

- Scientific idea or claim is not owned by one but all
- Property cannot be claimed only recognition can be given
- Scientific Claims should not rest on who is making it
- Intellectual property
- Secrecy not entertained
- Promotes collective collaboration

Universalism

- Or communality
- Findings of science are common property of scientific community
- It means that the particulars of a scientist like race, ethnicity, gender have nothing to do with the ideas that he produces
- Disregard socio-political status

Disinterestedness

- Focus on identifying the truth
- Not about own profits
- Scientists should be rewarded for their selfless devotion and contribution to Science
- Benefit of common scientific enterprise

Organized Scepticism

- Not take things at face value
- See proof and verify
- Both in methodology and institutional codes of conduct
- Proposed ideas should be tested
- Every idea calls for regular and structured scrutiny

MCQ

Q. 1. According to R. K. Merton, which of the following constitute the 'ethos of science' ?

- A. Organised scepticism
- B. Interestedness
- C. Universalism
- D. Communalism
- E. Cognitivism

Choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:

- i. A, B, C
- ii. E, C, A
- iii. A, C, D
- iv. C, D, E

Answer: iii. A, C, D

Q. 2. The counter norm of organized scepticism is _____

- i. Organized dogmatism
- ii. Conviction
- iii. Faith and belief
- iv. None of these

Answer: i. Organized dogmatism

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#cudos #communalism #universalism #disinterestedness #organizedscepticism
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