

Figure 2.1  
Levels of Mental Construction

**Relationship between Levels**

**Worldview**

- mediates conflicts between belief systems.
- provides cognitive, affective, and moral reinforcement of systems.

**Belief Systems**

- make explicit the basic worldview assumptions
- stimulate change in worldview by mediating experiential inputs.

**Belief Systems**

- determine legitimacy of questions.
- generate conceptual problems.
- perform constraining, heuristic, and justificatory role.

**Theories**

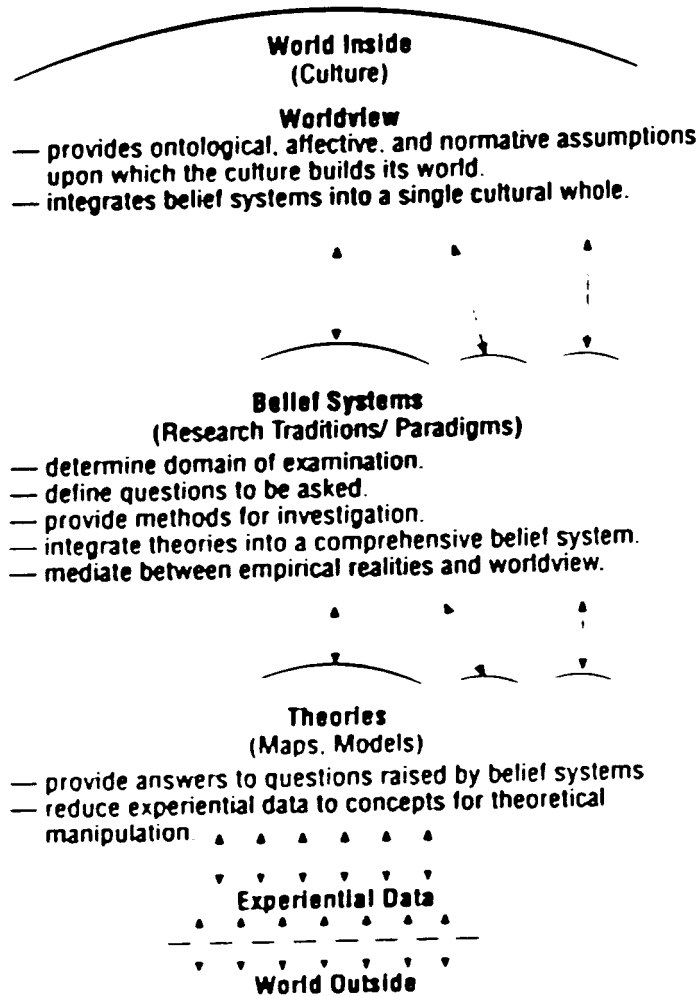
- justify and change belief system

**Theories**

- select and order experiential data in the categories of the belief system.
- investigate causality.

**Data**

- force new definitions of reality on theories



**Types of Problems**

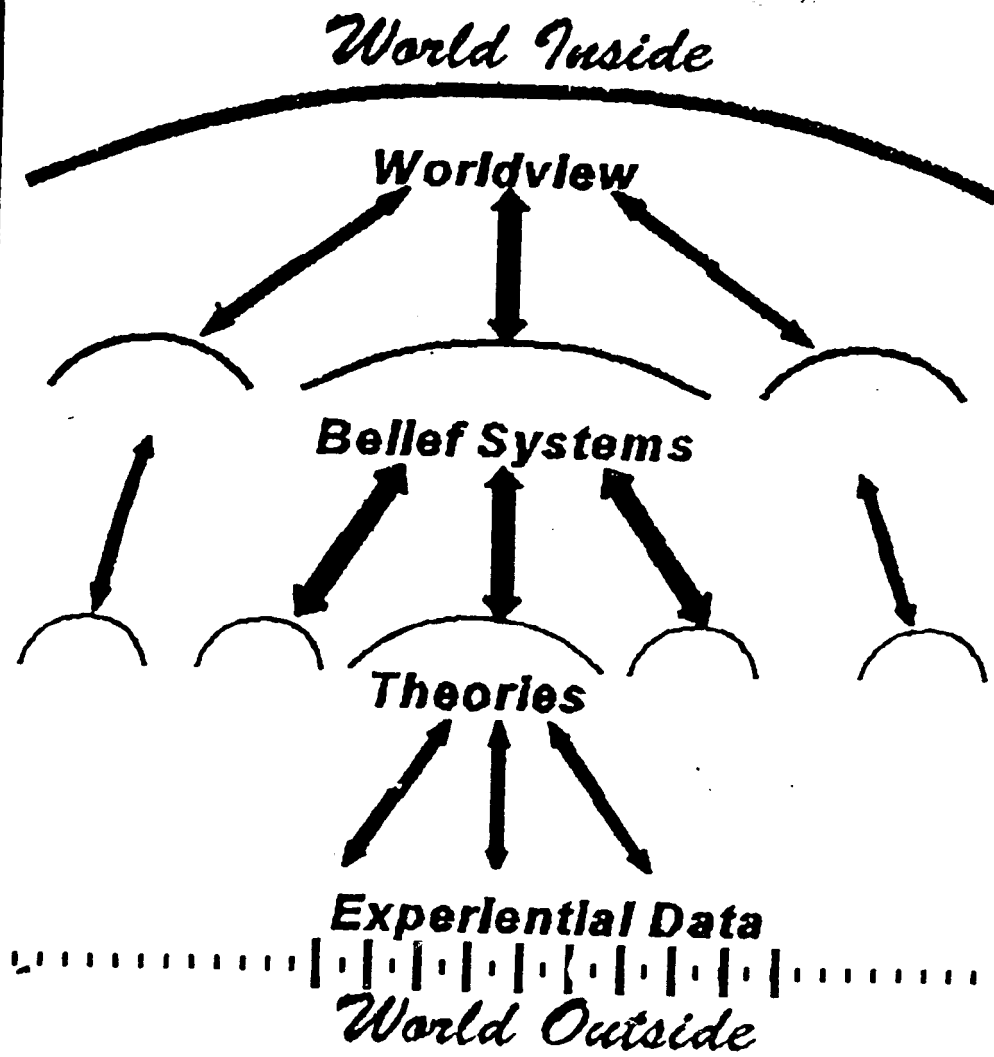
- 3<sup>d</sup> Order: Ultimate Problems**
- ontological nature of *truth*: meaning, reality.
  - desirable*: beauty, enjoyment, likes.
  - righteousness*: values, morality.

- 2<sup>d</sup> Order: Conceptual Problems**
- internal inconsistencies in worldview or belief systems (search for internal rationality)
  - external conflicts with other belief systems.
  - methodological problems

- 1<sup>st</sup> Order: Empirical Problems**
- test of fit between theories and empirical data



**Figure 3**  
**Levels of Cultural Knowledge**



- provide ontological, affective and normative assumptions on which the culture builds its world
- integrates belief systems into a single worldview

- determine domain of examination
- define questions to be asked
- provide methods for investigation
- integrate theories in belief systems and worldview
- mediate between empirical realities

- answer questions raised by belief systems
- order experience into theories

