

Methods for Analyzing Worldviews

RESEARCH METHODS

- ethnosemantics
- sentence completion
- analysis of signs
- analysis of rituals
- analysis of myths
- wisdom literature
- aesthetic culture
 - music, art, dance, drama, designs
- normative analysis

- thick descriptions
- cases
- deep philosophical analysis

ETHNOCSEMANTIC DOMAIN

- **a set of categories that belong together**
- **to speak of one is to contrast it with the others: to say “red” is to say “not orange,” “not yellow,” etc.**
- **domains can be subsumed under larger domains**

CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISONS

| | Cultures | | |
|--------|----------|---|---|
| | A | B | C |
| themes | | | |
| 1 | X | X | ? |
| 2 | X | ? | X |
| 3 | ? | X | ? |
| 4 | ? | X | X |

GROUP THESE INTO LARGER CATEGORIES:

TREE

LION

SAND

WOMAN

ANGEL

BUSH

COW

ROCK

GIRL

WHALE

DEER

GOD

DEMON

DOG

GRASS

MAN

FISH

RAKSHASA

VIRUS

GHOST

MICKEY
MOUSE

ANCESTOR

U.F.O.

**S
N**

**GOD
ANGELS, DEMONS**

N

**WOMAN, MAN,
GIRL**

**LION, COW, DEER,
DOG**

WHALE FISH

TREE, BUSH, GRASS

ROCK, SAND

The Emergence of the Modern Worldview

MEDIEVAL WV. MODERN WV.

CREATOR

GOD



CREATION

Angels & Demons

Humans

Animals

Plants

Matter

SUPERNATURAL



GOD
Angles & Demons

RELIGION

- faith, private truth
- other-worldly problems
- miracles
- sacred

EXCLUDED
MIDDLE ZONE

NATURAL



Humans
Animals
Plants
Matter

SCIENCE

- experience, public truth
- this-worldly problems
- natural order
- secular

MODERN WORLDVIEW: DUALISM

SUPERNATURAL

gods,
angels & demons

RELIGION

- ▶ other worlds
- ▶ miracles
- ▶ private faith

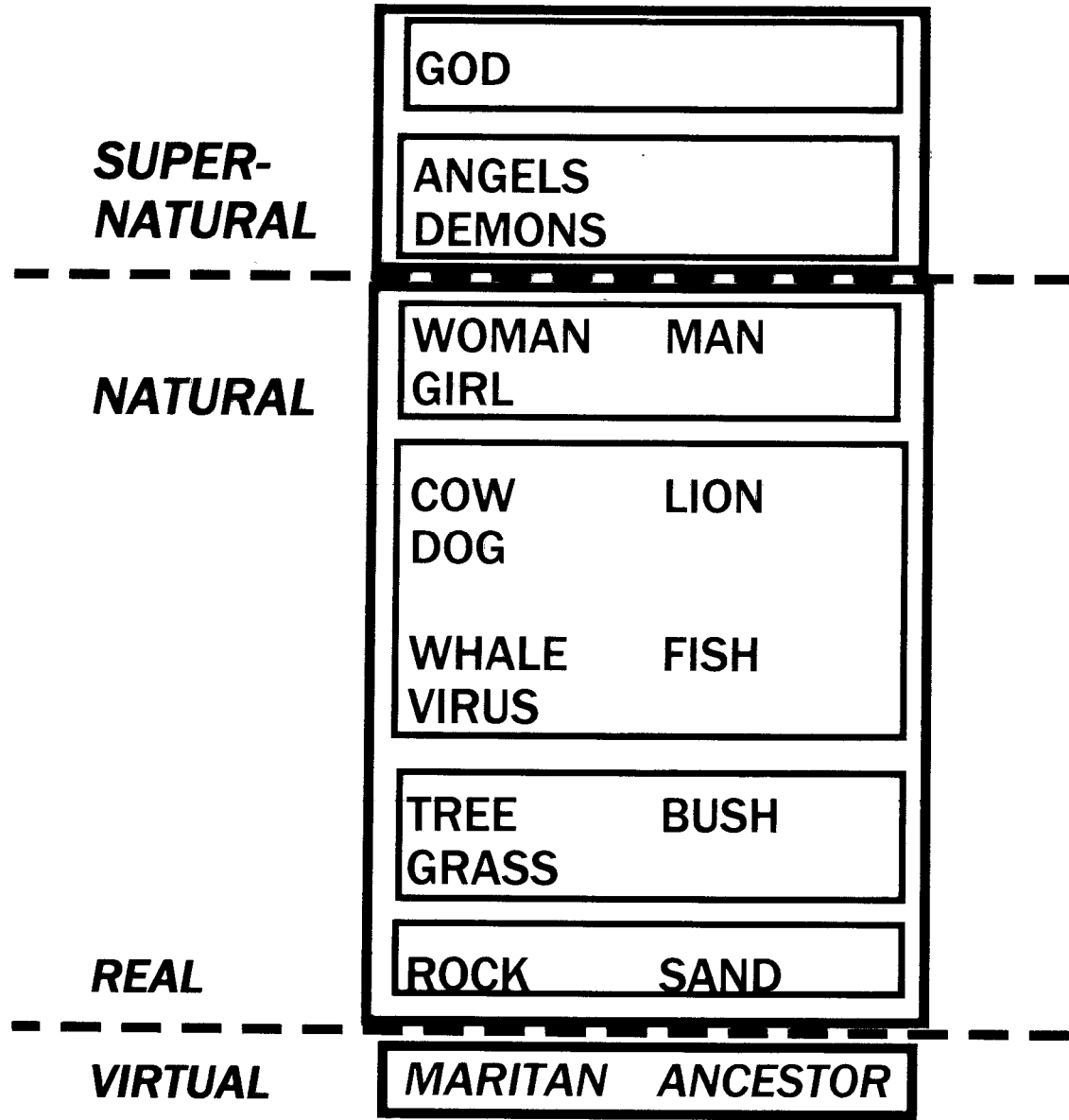
NATURAL

humans
animals
plants
matter

SCIENCE

- ▶ this world
- ▶ natural laws
- ▶ public truth

WESTERN WORLDVIEW OF LIFE



MASAI WORLDVIEW

MAN
LION
WHALE

WOMAN
COW

TREE
BUSH
FISH
BIRD
ROCK
DOG
GRASS

GOD
ANGELS
DEMONS
VIRUS