

Rationality: Metaphilosophy

Aristotelian:

- digital: binary opposition. Boundaries create the sets.
- No excluded areas and covers all reality in taxonomies. No mystery.
- algorithmic logic: mechanistic, one right answer.
- divorce cognition from feelings and value judgments to gain objectivity. Focus on objective truth.
- simple and reductionist.
- vantage point is acultural and ahistorical; acontextual. A God's view of things from outside.
- concerned with foundational structure of things.
- belief that in time we can know all things.
- tendency to high abstraction and unchanging universals.
- goal is control and engineering. We can engineer reality.

Concrete Functional:

- analogical categories: fuzzy sets and fuzzy boundaries
- fuzzy logic
- there may be several answers may be right depending on nuance of values and judgments.
- partial truth based on partial knowledge
- organic relational logic
- multiple and complex variables. Unknown variables and unknown data
- mystery is intrinsic to the system. Things we can not know.
- knowledge is always contextual, in the flow of life, not outside it. This does not mean there is 'situational ethics' alone. Critical realism says we need both. But even objective universal truth is sought through community dynamics and testing the ideas for biases.

Machine logic:

"The sufferers are trying to keep up with machines that never sleep and never deviate from perfect linear logic. Since human relations are neither linear nor logical, they grow increasingly isolated from their families and the whole feeling world." Thomas McDonald. San Diego psychologist in Time The real applie of his eye. Aug. 30, 1982 #35.