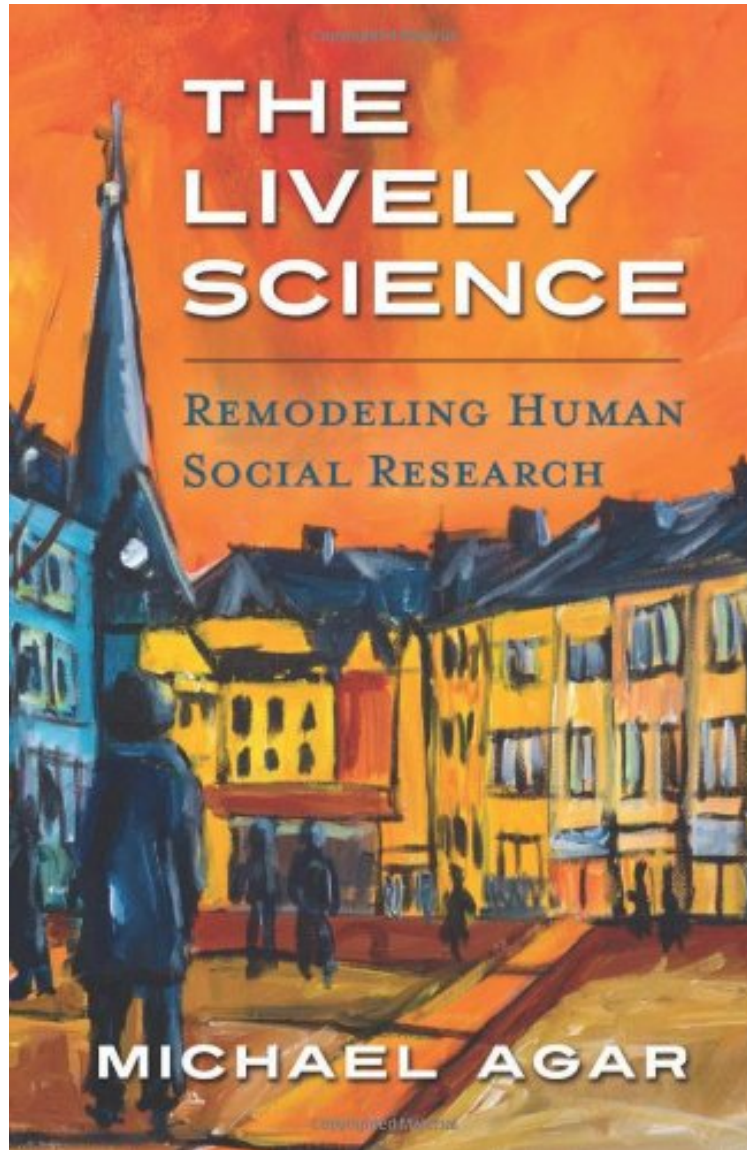


[Download free pdf] The Lively Science: Remodeling Human Social Research

# The Lively Science: Remodeling Human Social Research

Michael Agar

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**Michael Agar : The Lively Science: Remodeling Human Social Research** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lively Science: Remodeling Human Social Research:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. there's a difference between intelligent science and professionally acceptable scienceBy CustomerMaybe paradoxically, there's a difference between intelligent science and professionally acceptable science. Agar, who spent a large part of his life "on the street" dealing with the drug world, saw the difference clearly, and embarked on a critique of orthodox social science on the basis of what he found he

needed to know in order to be effective in his work. The result is quite powerful, even as a work in progress, Agar reaches back to the almost forgotten "verstehen" tradition of Dilthey et. al., shakes out the pomp and circumstance characteristic of the tradition, and brings to life the practical core. Theoretical critiques of positivism are a dime a dozen; grounded practical critiques are rare. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Concepts Please By Old dog learns new trick I have been greatly interested in some aspects of social science, anthropology and ethnography for organizational performance improvement. However, the jargon is impenetrable for an engineer like me. Also, the typical social science work like employee surveys intuitively lacked validity for performance or safety improvement. It just seemed better to go encounter the people of the organization to learn about their day-to-day lives, identify the barriers and resistances they face, and then remove them. Dr. Agar's book helped me to realize that I wasn't crazy. The Lively Science is a very approachable book for those actually looking to make application of human social research to real problems and those, like me, who have little to no training in it. Yet, it does an admirable job of exposing the strengths and weaknesses of the two identified aspects: behavioral social science and human social research. Dr. Agar confronts a different problem; the likes of which is being faced in multiple areas. Behavioral social science (BSS) is being applied to human social research issues. Guess what! BSS doesn't help, but it garners lots of hope (\$) in successful outcomes. It is assumed that BSS will work. Evidence is ignored that that assumption is false. Insisting that assumptions are fact when there is evidence to the contrary is or has been a common mode failure in almost every organization. The book serves as a great example of one way to intervene. Those insisting that assumptions are fact when they are not must ignore the excellent case made by Dr. Agar. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. On the pathway to increasing scientific awareness and use of empathy By N King Agar provides an historical account of the formation of behavioral social science, as envisioned by Mill, and then describes how the limitations within this BSS framework lead Brentano and Dilthey to describe a new kind of science, "a lively science". His description of this pathway along with addition of the Toulmin "making a case" model provide the necessary background to pursue social science from the perspective of human social research, an "intersubjective, nonlinear, dynamic" method of inquiry. He ends with the use of this HSR framework across the various humanities. However the standout feature of the text is his use of humor, personal anecdotes, and German philosophical terms!

Take human social sciences out of the lab and into the world! Frustrated that "the numbers" don't solve the problem? Wondering why policies and programs don't work on the ground? Shaking your head at who they told you to call and the help you didn't get? People, organizations, countries--they rely on information about real human social lives. Usually they don't have it. There's no excuse for this. A different kind of human social science was proposed in the 19th century. It requires research to begin and end in the real worlds of the humans that it claims to be about. The Lively Science, written as a conversation with a general reader, revisits the historical roots, blends in new intellectual tools, and argues that it's time to get on with a more productive human social science that changes objects into subjects and learns who they are and what they're trying to do before conclusions are drawn and action is taken.