

Poststructuralism and Postcolonialism

Peer Discussion

- in your groups discuss what didn't make sense to you in the chapters for today. See if you can work through your questions. Take a few minutes or so, then we'll come back and address questions you weren't able to sort out yourselves.

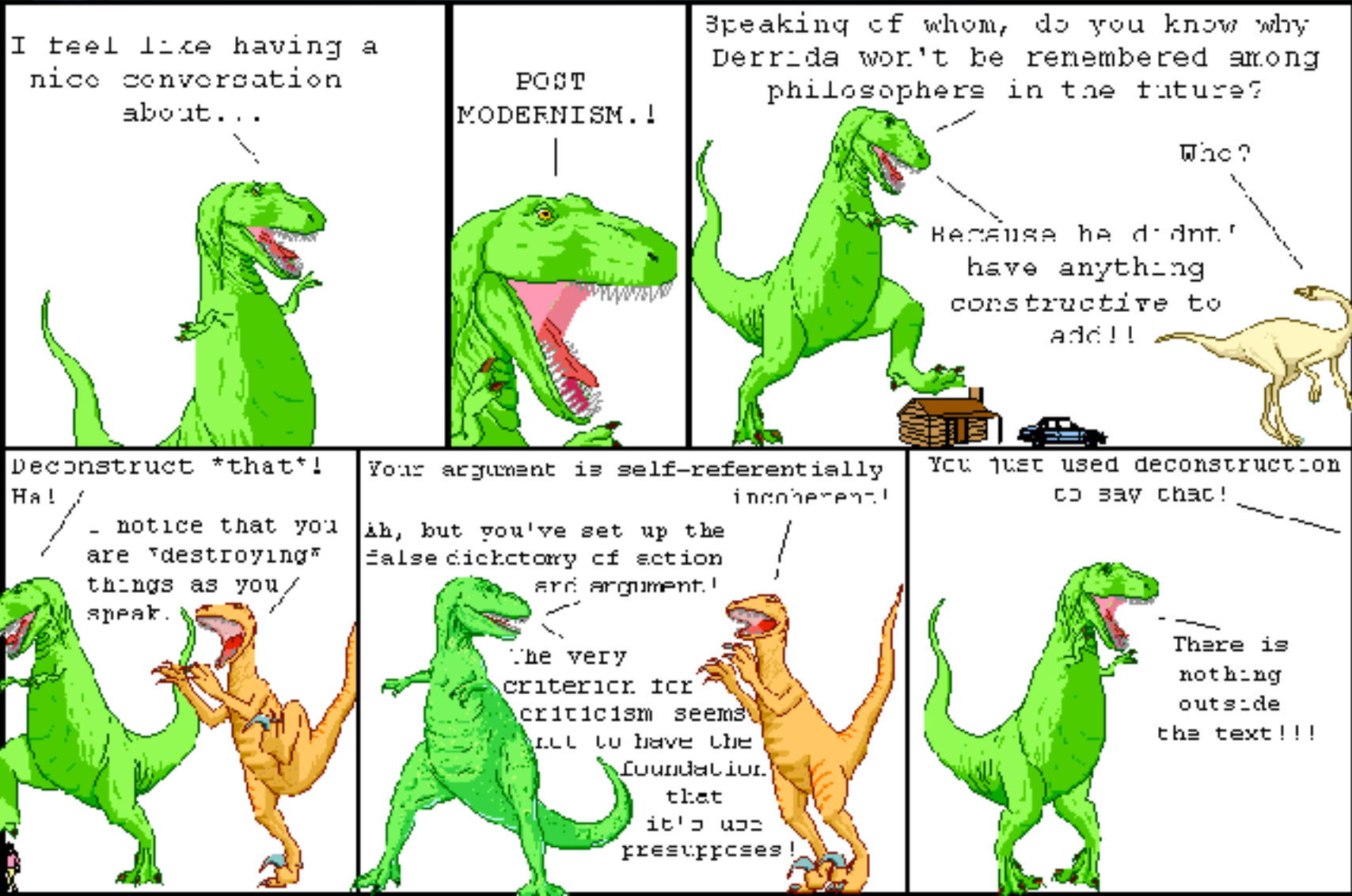
Positivism

- Unity of Science
- Distinction between facts and values, with facts being neutral between theories
- Social world has theoretically discoverable regularities
- Empiricist epistemology: way to determine the truth of statements is to appeal to neutral facts.
- Naturalist theories: natural world same as social world

Theory

- Explanatory versus constitutive theory
 - Explanatory theory: world external to the theory
 - Which theories are explanatory?
 - Constitutive theory: Theories help construct the world
- Which theories are Constitutive?
- Foundational/antifoundational
 - Foundational: Truth claims can be judged true or false
 - Antifoundational: No neutral ground on which to judge truth claims; theories define what counts as facts.

Poststructuralism



Poststructuralism

- Concerned with deconstructing any account of human life that claims to have direct access to truth. Claims to have discovered fundamental truths are treated with skepticism
 - Power-knowledge relationship
 - Claims of knowledge are fundamentally claims of power.
 - Performative nature of identity
 - Identity does not exist as a thing which can be observed or measured.
 - Identity only exists as a series of acts produced by social relations.

Poststructuralism

- Critical perspective on IR and state behavior
- Discourse
 - Events are constituted differently in different discourses
- Deconstruction
 - Rogue States, rational versus irrational
- Genealogy
 - Terrorism?
- Intertextuality

Applying Poststructuralism

- State
 - divides the world into inside (safety, trust) and outside (danger, devious)
 - What happens when the inside is the same as the outside? What happens to the political community without the dichotomy?

Inside—the state	↔	Outside—the international
Order	↔	Anarchy
Community	↔	Difference
Reason	↔	Power
Trust	↔	Suspicion
Progress	↔	Repetition
Cooperation	↔	Self-help
Law	↔	Capabilities
Peace	↔	War

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Post-colonialism

European Colonial Empires
1492 - 2008

Post-colonialism

- Long overlooked in IR
- Don't let the post fool you. The approach emphasizes the continuity of colonial practices (control occupation, and domination of people over another people and their land for purposes of extraction and settlement to the benefit of the occupiers) even if the juridical version of colonialism has become passé.
- Post colonialism is an effort to explore and expose structures of domination in the international system.
- Imperial power operates at the intersection of gender, race, and class.

Post-Colonialism

- Prompts us to consider who speaks for social collectives, and how do we know what we know about others?
 - 'Third-world women'
- Returning to domination, post-colonialism gives us a different perspective of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Historical Sociology

- ▣ Way societies develop through history
- How have specific types of states been produced by forces within domestic and international society?
- Notion of the state changes through time
- “States made war, and war made the states.”
 - Why did the nation-state model prevail over more commercially successful city-states or coercive empires

Historical Sociology

- Michael Mann: Social power
 - Distributive versus collective
 - Extensive versus intensive
 - Authoritative versus diffused
 - Source of power
 - Ideological
 - Economic
 - Military
 - Political

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17.41 Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2018

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