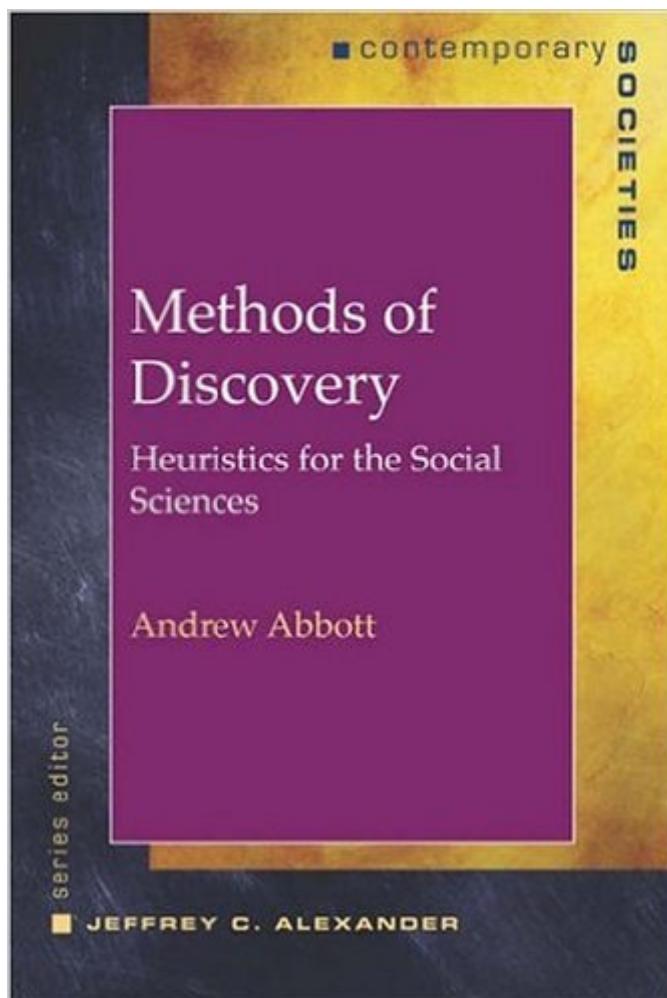


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Methods Of Discovery: Heuristics For The Social Sciences (Contemporary Societies)



Synopsis

Methods of Discovery is organized around strategies for deepening arguments in order to find the best ways to study social phenomena. Abbott helps social science students discover what questions to ask. This exciting book is not about habits and the mechanics of doing social science research, but about habits of thinking that enable students to use those mechanics in new ways, by coming up with new ideas and combining them more effectively with old ones. Abbott organizes his book around general methodological moves, and uses examples from throughout the social sciences to show how these moves can open new lines of thinking. In each chapter, he covers several moves and their reverses (if these exist), discussing particular examples of the move as well as its logical and theoretical structure. Often he goes on to propose applications of the move in a wide variety of empirical settings. The basic aim of Methods of Discovery is to offer readers a new way of thinking about directions for their research and new ways to imagine information relevant to their research problems. Methods of Discovery is part of the Contemporary Societies series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a beautifully written, clear and understandable analysis of the diverse ways of thinking in contemporary sociology. It is written to be understandable by undergraduates who are serious about the discipline and are about to undertake research on their own. Graduate students will find it indispensable as they make very important decisions about their own careers. Reading Abbott is

much easier than trying to figure these things out on your own . The author's concept of "fractual heuristics" is an innovative and insightful way of thinking about the interaction of different kinds of ideas in the discipline. There is too much here for me to summarize in a short review, but it is well worth reading.Ted Goertzel, Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University.

The author is brilliant! He provided many good ideas for coming up with ideas. I read this in a dissertation proposal seminar. We were all fascinated, including our professor, a well-established scholar. He said that even at his stage of career, he was able to take many ideas for coming up with researchable questions.

A great source for those in the business of writing original social science research. The section on heuristics is really liberating for those stuck on voicing ideas.

This book should be required reading in doctoral methods courses! If you want to understand how to think through your research, this is a must read.

Excellent

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