

Wisdom beyond language in research and the place of narrative

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Research

(1) A practice which (adults) have to learn how to do
- *phronesis*

(2) a form of learning, directed at the object of research, the world
- finding more out about the world

Skills training requirements for research students: joint statement by the research councils/AHRB (2001)

- A - Research Skills and Techniques
- B - Research Environment
- C - Research Management
- D - Personal Effectiveness
- E - Communication Skills
- F - Networking and Teamworking
- G - Career Management

UK GRAD (now VITAE)

Launched in 2003 by Research Councils

www.vitae.ac.uk

- The role of the UK GRAD Programme is to support the academic sector to embed personal and professional skills development into research degree programmes (RDP).
- Our vision is for **all postgraduate researchers to be fully equipped and encouraged to complete their studies and to make a successful transition to their future careers.**

“Skills Agenda”

Stephen Rowland

- lowest common denominator problem

Diana Leonard – leads to infantilisation

And amounts to external interference

- skills for other employers' interests

Rowland, Frank Furedi - Realist

Competence and 'Skill'

- **Realism** (ontologically distinct entities):

X is a skill, Y is not a skill

- **Irrealism:**

{A has skill X} = {A is skilled at doing X}

{A is competent at conducting biographical interviewing}
= {A is skilled at conducting biographical interviewing}

{A is skilled at conducting biographical interviewing}
= {A has biographical interviewing skills}

Michael Polanyi

Tacit dimension/component

knowing vs learning

articulated/codified vs inarticulate/practical knowledge
(Robert Kirk – “raw feeling”/qualia as pre-linguistic
– ineffable because too rich – even if mundane)

focal (explicit) vs subsidiary (implicit) awareness

explicit vs hidden (soln to new problem)

(2) The object of research

Two sorts of research:

- i) Finding out more of the same (much social science, market research, etc....)
- ii) Discovery of new type of knowledge

Immanuel Kant:

Phenomenal vs Noumenal

Things-as-they-appear vs Things-in-themselves

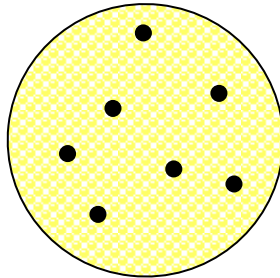
(the ineffable as mystical, other-worldly)

Hegel and Peter Strawson apply Occam's Razor

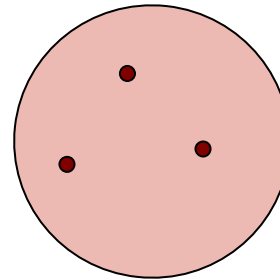
Graham Priest – the “torn boundary” at the limit

The Limits of Thought

The set of people

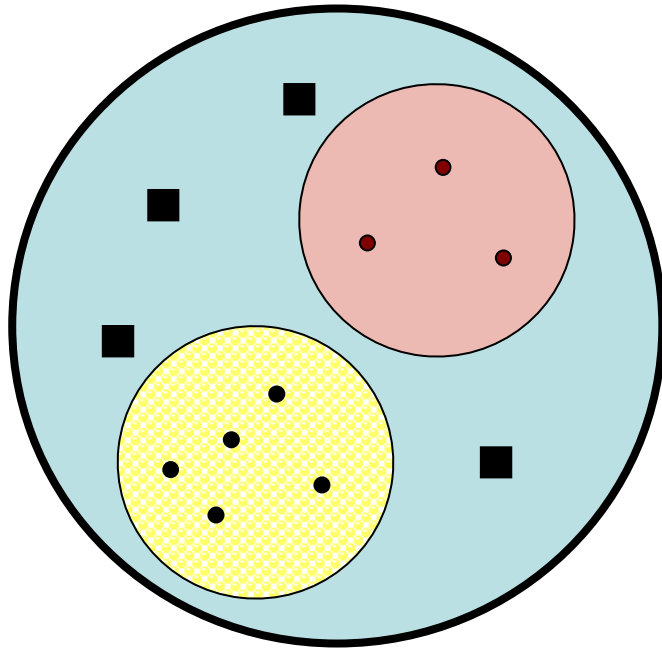


The set of bicycles



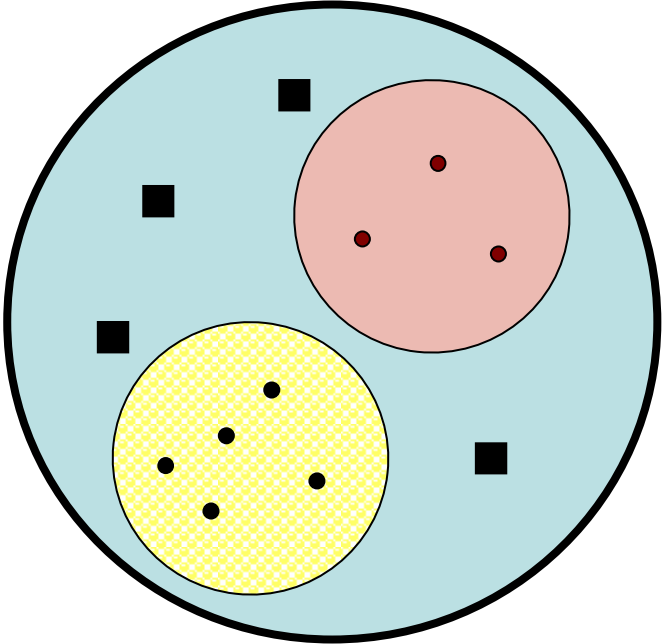
The Limits of Thought

The set of all
entities



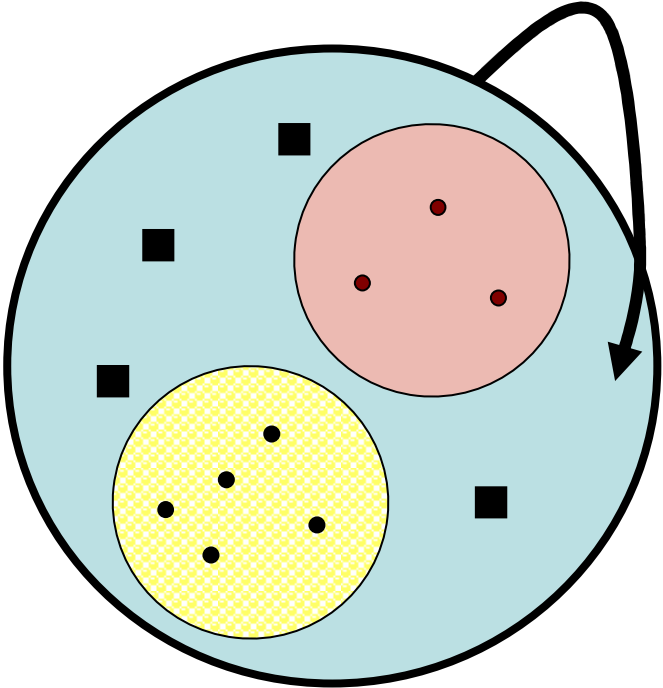
The Limits of Thought

The set of all entities

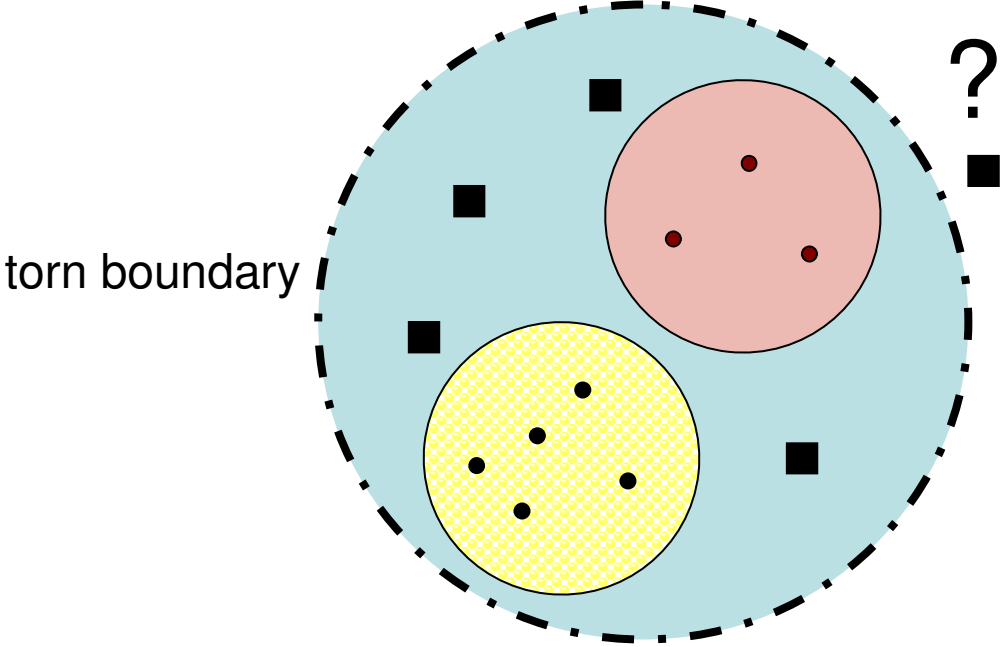


The Limits of Thought

The set of all entities



The Limits of Thought



Biographical Research

As type (i) - finding out more of the same ?

(Galen Strawson: and just too fictional/false)?

Answer: only if not very probing!

Biographical Research

Type (ii) - The Self as narrative identity

- (a) new ideal type as a Discovery?
- (b) other's self permanently "hidden" in the noumenal realm, beyond the "boundary" of achievement of research

Questions and comments, please!

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