

Analytical Sociology and Social Mechanisms

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Within the framework of the new mechanistic philosophy, two trends could be distinguished: the new mechanism (Craver, Glennan, Illari...) and the social scientific mechanism (Elster, Hedström, Ylikoski...). Analytical sociologists, who underline the relevance of mechanisms in social sciences, are the most representative authors of the second one. The aim of this paper is to present the fundamental principles of the analytical sociology and discuss what kind of entities and activities must be the components of social mechanisms. I analyse the previous attempts of characterizing social mechanism's components and propose a minimal requirement the must be met by them.