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BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTRUCTIVIST THEORY OF SPACE AND THE CREATION OF REGIONS

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SPACE?

„eternal and infinite
non-entity” (Kant)

itself **NOTHING**

SPACE

POSSIBILITY

SPACE IS
NOTHING AND **EVERYTHING**

SPACE IS
"POSSIBILITY CONDITION" OF
BEING,
PRECONDITION OF BEING

SPACE IS
„PARASITE”
(Agnew, J. 2005)

SPACE IS
FORMS OF APPEARANCE OF
BEINGS

SPACE IS ORGANISING PRINCIPLES

SPACE IS HISTORICAL A PRIORIS

(Foucault, M. 2000)

SPACE IS SIMULTANEOUS MULTIPLICITY

(„open space” Massey, D. 2005)

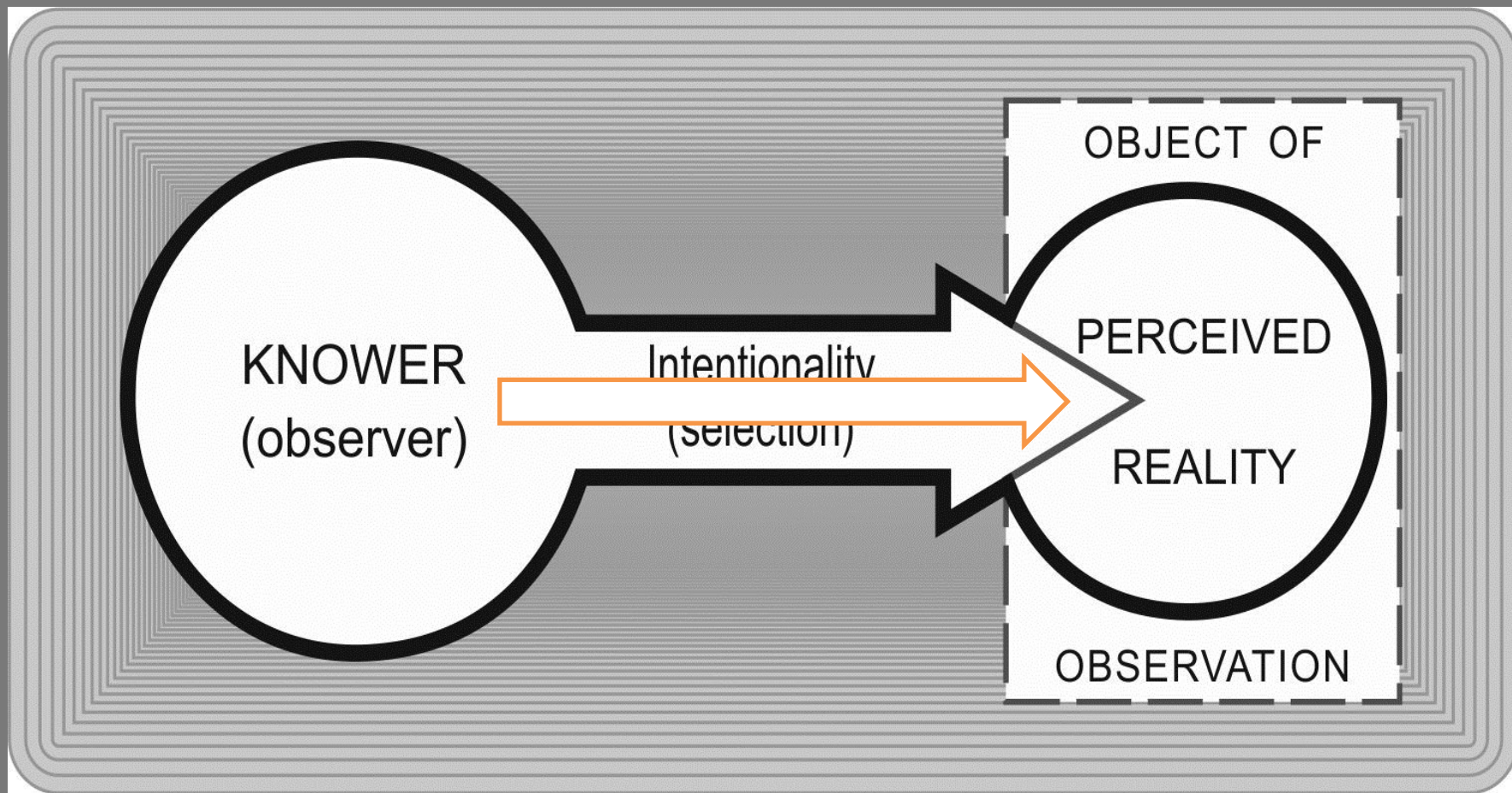
CONSTRUCTIVISM

- Constructivism $\neq \approx$ social constructionism
- Epistemological theory of knowledge and learning
- Rooted in different philosophical theory

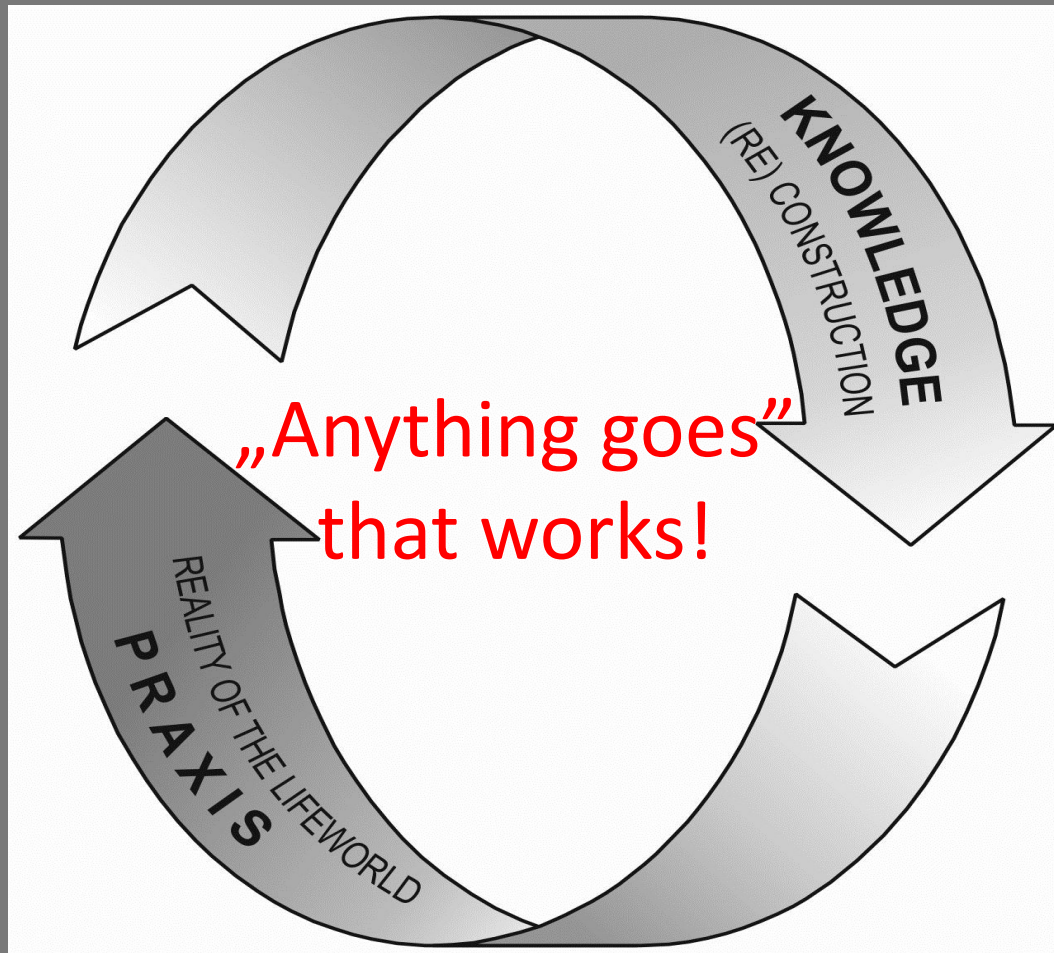
SOME BASIC FINDING

- Constructivism does not search for ontological reality, it explores the ***order of being-in-the-world***
- *For us, reality is the world constructed through perception*
- Thinking and reason play an active role in the process of **cognition**
- **Methodological empiricism**: the control of knowledge constructions happens in the *experiential* (perceived) world
- **Autopoiesis and structural coupling**

THE CONSTRUCTIVIST DEDUCTIVE MODEL OF THE COGNITIVE PROCESS



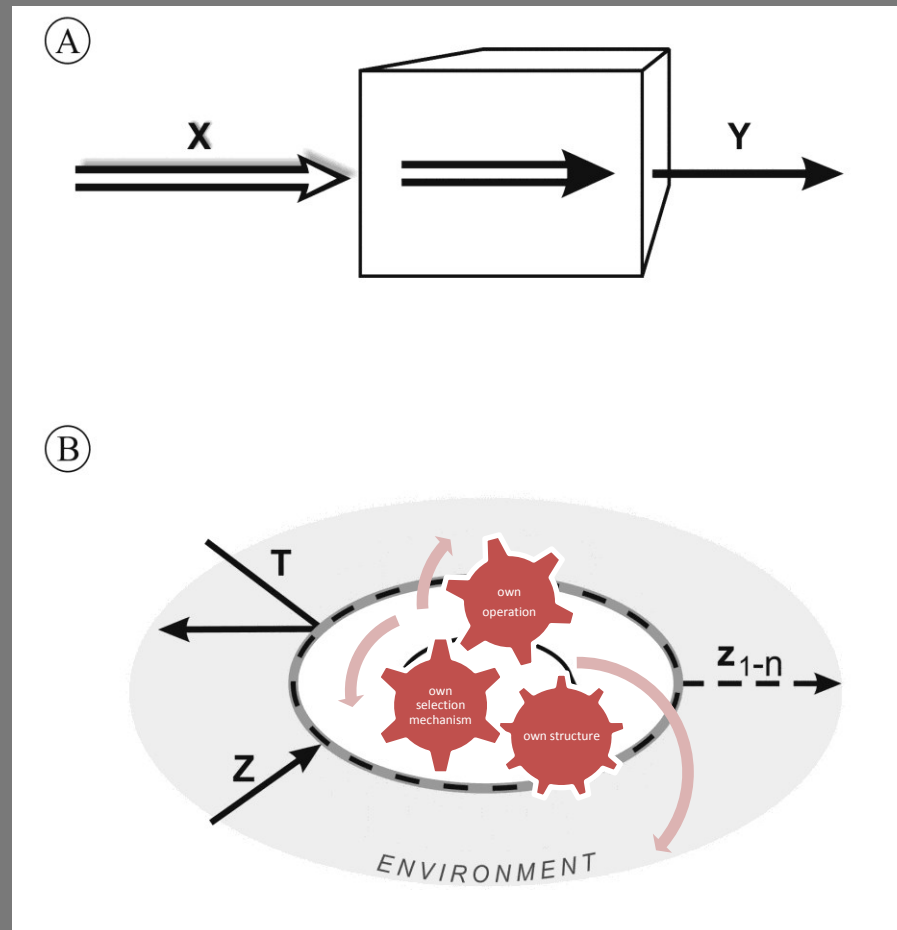
THE CONTROL AND FUNCTIONING OF KNOWLEDGE CONSTRUCTIONS



AUTOPOIESIS AND STRUCTURAL COUPLING

- Life is a **self-sustaining, self-organising process**
- **Dependence** upon its environment is **relative** indirect, filtered through its own operations and structure
- Social units (e.g. local society) can also be regarded as autopoietic self-organisations (Luhmann 2006)
- **Closed systems**

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE DETERMINISTIC OPEN SYSTEM (A) AND THE AUTOPOIETIC CLOSED SYSTEM (B)



World

is what you pour into it

SPACE

is what you pour into it

We construct our own lifeworlds, and space

- Ontologically: through our actions and linkages
- Epistemologically: during the cognitive process as we experience and interpret the world („spaces of reason”)
- A dialectical interaction exists between existence and cognition

THE EXAMPLE OF THE CREATION OF REGIONS

- Regions are not existing entities, not something „out there”, they are **social political constructions** (Allen et al. 1998, Keating 1998, Paasi 2001, Massey 2005)
- The real region is an outcome of a cognitive and a discussion process, realisation of a symbolic ide of space. Regionalism is sence-giving, the **creation** and legitimization of the **idea** of the region
- Endeavours and **intentionality of the actors** (EU, government etc.) **play the primary role** (teleology vs. causality)
- Regions **can be** autopoietic systems

HUNGARIAN REGIONALISM

- After World War II and during the 1990s was motivated by **Marxist ideology imported from abroad**
- NUTS 2 regions were created due to external pressure and governmental intervention
- NUTS-type regions have since been devalued
- In the future **counties** and **urban areas** play leading role in spatial development

Thank you for your attention!

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