1. STATING THE PROBLEM: What Are “Micro-foundations” and Why Bother?

1.1 model of action

Individual subjects are subjectively characterized by:
(a) preferences. (b) information. (c) theories. (d) mental capacities. (e) nonconscious psychic processes

They are objectively characterized by:
(f) resources. (g) causal environment of choosing. (h) a causal environment of the effects of their actions

1.2 Four aspects of Micro-foundations:
(1). Micro-mechanisms of consciousness formation
(2). The micro-mechanisms of nonconsciousness formation
(3). Micro-process of choice-making
(4). Micro-processes of creative action, problem-solving

1.3 Why Bother?

1.4 A difficult problem: the moral standing of strategies to transform beliefs

2. TYPES OF EXPLANATIONS OF IDEOLOGIES (465ff in Elster)

2.1. Autonomy of Thought

2.2 Types of Explanations
a. interest explanations vs. position explanations
b. causal explanations vs. functional explanations
  • position explanations are always causal; interests explanations can be either
  • Note: a belief that is shaped by interests need not serve those interests
c. Examples:
  • interest-functional explanation
  • interest-causal explanation
  • position-causal explanations

2.3 Cognitive and Motivational explanations

| EXPLANANDUM |
|-------------------|------------------|
| MOTIVATIONAL        | COGNITIVE        |
| MOTIVATIONAL        | adaptive preferences | wishful thinking |
| COGNITIVE           | mental bookkeeping  | availability heuristic |

3. MECHANISMS FOR RULING IDEAS TO BECOME RULING

4. MECHANISMS OF IDEOLOGICAL BELIEF FORMATION

4.1 Inversion
4.2 Particular & general interest: wishful thinking as the mechanism linked to moral impulse
4.3 Local & global vision
4.4 Conceptual imperialism