

The Social Sciences: An Assessment on the Processual Development of Political Science

Ige Kehinde Moses

*Graduate, Faculty of Political Science and Economics
East Stroudsburg University
200 Prospect St., East Stroudsburg PA, USA*

Ige, Taiwo Samuel

*Graduate, Faculty of Political Science
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St Louis Ave, Chicago, IL, USA*

ABSTRACT

The social sciences primarily refer to a broad view of disciplines that relate to human life and social relations. It investigates and interrogates cultural norms, views, and traditions to understand human behavior and the structure of civilization. Social sciences helped to establish the phenomena of social institutions and stratification. For this research, the researchers will seek to define the subject of Social Science and the subfields disciplines that make up the social sciences some of which are anthropology, economics, political science, history, geography, etc.

Finally, both researchers will attempt to empirically establish an assessment of the processual development of political science.

KEYWORDS: *Social, Development, Assessment, Political, Science.*

Date of Submission: 05-07-2023

Date of Acceptance: 16-07-2023

I. INTRODUCTION

The scope of the social sciences or social science disciplines is quite broad. These disciplines express the multifaceted and trans-disciplinary framework of social science. These disciplines include but are not limited to political science, economics, geography, history, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and communication studies; to mention a few. Social sciences are the primary design that determines the universal outlook and trajectory of sociocultural, political, and human affairs as all facets of the world are largely impacted (Ige, 2023).

There is a general crisis in the social sciences and human sciences alike because they are overwhelmed by their successes which is an outcome of the accumulation of new knowledge (Braudel, Wallerstein, 2009).

Social sciences help to shape cultural norms, cooperation, and communication by taking experiments to the field in indigenous communities to simulate civilizations and growth across all spheres of society (Ghate, Ghate & Ostrom, 2013).

This is how the framework of politics and subsequently political science where principles of societal development, and social relations are derived. This human institutional design is also used to govern the commons (Herzberg, 2015).

For certain societies, countries, and regions of the world especially products of post-colonial experiences, social sciences help to both develop and enhance economic integration (Arinze, Temitope & Moses, 2021).

For less democratic and liberal systems, foreign policy becomes the progressive instrument for projection and achieving political ambition (Moses, 2020).

The implementation of social science disciplines is highly contingent on population and policy. The evolution of both variables is essentially linked to the polity of such a society (Ige, 2022). Long-standing traditions and culture also influence the quality of interpretation. Here, disciplinarian frameworks of politics, communications, and social life are repercussions of cultural tendencies and proclivities of that society. This impacts how political science is developed and practiced (Moses, 2022).

The social sciences also help to inform us about policy formation and its processes, especially concerning disciplines like political science and public administration. This was evident in how the COVID-19

pandemic was handled even from the local standpoint as immediate communities walked hand-in-hand in managing its impact (Ige, 2022).

In the event of social unrest or crisis, social sciences help establish the framework for resolution and peace (Moses, 2022).

II. MATERIALS AND RESEARCH METHOD

The methodological theory adopted for this research is the scientific method. This methodological approach is most suitable for this research because it appeals to the diverse nature of social sciences as a field as it applies to all problems ranging from political, social, philosophical, economic, or ethical issues (McLaughlin, 1954).

The scientific method according to Ellwood helps to adequately understand the necessity of science concerning the mental and social life of man. Even within the walls of tertiary institutions such as colleges and universities, the scientific method helps to establish the basis for inquiry, investigation, and analysis; the development of modern scientific method for development (Ellwood, 1993).

Other primary sources of data were taken from texts, journal articles, and online academic materials.

III. THE NATURE OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

The nature of social science is intricately and fundamentally related to our society. It is ambiguous because people do not know what it is, and hold various and conflicting views about it. The view of social science as a sort of rummage sale of advice and speculation is quite common (Redfield, 1950).

To some degree, the nature of social sciences is often referred to as natural science because it is differentiated from other modes of knowledge by method, not by subject matter. The revolutionary concept is that social phenomena are not natural phenomena and therefore can be studied throughout all social aspects of life. Social science is here by scientific nature because it is in itself a systemized body of knowledge. Since all knowledge, in contrast to private experience, depends upon communication but a system of symbols and since all aspect of social life is not science, there remain inherent tendencies for limiting definitions (Bain, 1947).

Many tend to separate societal values from social science. The question of values and social science has long been disputed. This article first identifies five possible denotations of the phrase "Values on Social Science". It then presents

A discussion of some of the factors which can influence the social scientist's values and

An explanation of how such values can influence the nature of a specific social science discipline.

It is imperative to note the values held by the social scientist toward that which he is studying. Social scientists hold, consciously and unconsciously inherent views that reflect in how they conduct research or in their adoption of a series of methodological approaches. Social science helps define the nature of social reality (Schatzki, 1988).

THE PROCESSUAL DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The processual development of political science is based on numerous factors and indicators. Development in itself is processual. It is growth that can be traced or tracked. It is systemic and institutional. That is to say, when we talk about the development of political science as a discipline, one must first and foremost identify the systemic mood of operation of a given society, as well as measure the proclivity, efficacy, and outcomes. Why is political science necessary in today's age? There have been deliberate actions towards the deliberate oversimplification of the value and importance of political science (Pennock, 1996).

The definitions of political development are legion. Most, however, share two closely related characteristics. First, political development is identified as one aspect of, or as intimately connected with, the broader processes of modernization. The processes of modernization lead to an increase in social mobilization which by consequence and to this effect produces political participation. Political participation informs to masses and populace to the degree that they become part of the political process which in itself stimulates political growth and development. It is thus safe to say that modernization is a consequence of political development and social growth (Huntington, 1965).

IV. CONCLUSION

Like other disciplines in the social sciences, political science is yet to evolve to a state of perfection. It would be a fallacious and frivolous claim to equate discipline to a state of perfection. Societal flaws, public opinions, ideology, history, culture, and tradition are all characteristics that form the basis for political structures, systems, innovations, and processes. In this regard, the developmental process of political science as a discipline is often subjective seeing that is influenced by these variables.

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Ige Kehinde Moses, et. al. "The Social Sciences: An Assessment on the Processual Development of Political Science". *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention (IJHSSI)*, vol. 12, no. 7, 2023, pp. 56-58. Journal DOI- 10.35629/7722