Contents

Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction Welcome to the fact factory Preparations Precursors Overview of the book	1 2 6 11 13
1 Social Studies of Science Traditional sociology of science Philosophy and scientific facts Sociology of scientific knowledge Constructionist and interest theories of scientific Realism, relativism and rhetoric	17 17 20 25 <i>ic fact making</i> 34 40
2 Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analys Ethnomethodology Pollner and mundane reason Conversation analysis Ethnomethodology, conversation analysis and f	43 53 57
3 Semiology – Post-structuralism – Postmodern Semiology Post-structuralism Postmodernism Facts and the structuralist tradition	68 69 73 88 94
4 Discourse and Construction Some stories of construction Discourse, mental furniture and rhetoric The action orientation of description The epistemological orientation of description Combining action and epistemology	97 97 103 108 112 118
5 Interests and Category Entitlements Stake and interest Category entitlement Footing, neutrality and alignment Stake, entitlement and footing	122 124 132 142 148

Contents

0	Constructing Out-there-ness		150
	Empiricist discourse		151
	Consensus and corroboration		158
	Detail and narrative		162
	Truth is stranger than fiction		173
7	Working up Representations		176
	Categorization and ontological gerryman	ndering	177
	Extrematization and minimization		187
	Normalization and abnormalization		194
	Representations in action		199
8	Criticizing Facts		202
	Facts, speech acts and constructionism		202
	Social science and fact construction		206
	Criticizing facts		218
	Appendix		233
	References		235
	Index		248