

# **Fact-Value Entanglement and Other Reasons for the Dearth of Uncontroversial Social Scientific Knowledge**

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Fact-value entanglement is a ubiquitous phenomenon in the social sciences. To the extent that factual and value judgements are entangled, and there is a lack of agreement on values, disagreement about factual issues is to be expected. But fact-value entanglement is only one of many reasons for the difficulty of social scientists to agree on matters of fact. Others have to do with the complexity and heterogeneity of social scientific phenomena and the limitations of methods of inference to establish their results unambiguously. The aim of this paper is to examine the many reasons for the absence of agreement in the social sciences on matters of fact and to ask, with respect to each reason, about the prospects for addressing it in a way that is likely to command widespread agreement among social scientists. To anticipate my main conclusion: the prospects aren't all that great.