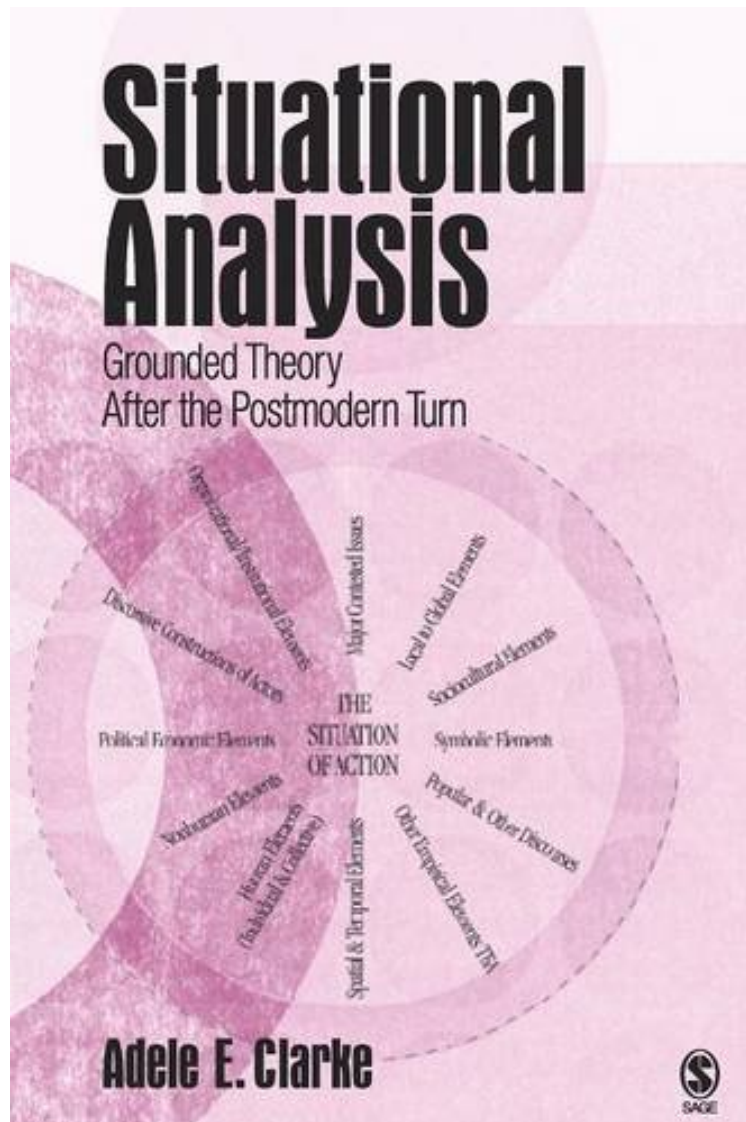


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Situational Analysis: Grounded Theory After the Postmodern Turn

Adele E. Clarke

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Adele E. Clarke : Situational Analysis: Grounded Theory After the Postmodern Turn before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Situational Analysis: Grounded Theory After the Postmodern Turn:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Maps like Stories Can Unfold MysteriesBy Dr. Samuel MahaffySituational Analysis, if used with the deep reflectivity called for by Adele Clarke, provides a significant advancement beyond grounded theory. The book compels the researcher to study the unstudied, explore that which is

made invisible or hidden in the predominant and hierarchical approaches that dominate much of qualitative research. I followed this approach with some rigor in my dissertation research on decision making. Dr. Clarke's work is relevant to the evolving effort to get qualitative research past hegemonic discourses. It calls forward a need to take a more multi-lens perspective. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Most important research book I've read for some time. By Craig Chalquist, PhD, author of TERRAPSYCHOLOGY and DEEP CALIFORNIA Situational Analysis seeks to rid Grounded Theory of its remaining positivism by examining situations as a whole--their discourses, social worlds, arenas, and the like--rather than dealing in supposedly isolable variables or simplistic cause-effect linearities. To help with this, situational mapping receives more emphasis than narratives or formulae that imply an omniscient, genderless, disembodied researcher somehow standing apart from what is researched. The author remains clear and avoids the worst of the dreadful jargon that infests so many postmodern texts. This one offers some background in the methodology, alternates theory with example, and uses exemplar studies to show the reader how to do things. Students and instructors alike can sit down with this book and find many concrete applications of this way of doing research. The mapping could also come in very handy in other kinds of qualitative studies. By way of a wish list: (1) It seems to me that the postmodern horror of regularity, unity, and replication overlooks that these need not always be hegemonic homogenizations of human experience. In addition to differences and complexities, why not look for a few interesting patterns and commonalities in the mix of what's being studied? (2) 3D maps online would bring out their depth and multidimensionality. (3) Like to see more emphasis on peer review or what Braud and Anderson call a "resonance panel" to minimize the risk of mapping biases and projections. (4) Like to see some tentative interpretations of the map symbols. What does it say about a situation when the map's balloons and boundaries crowd out the lines of communication? Does it mean anything if most of the map consists of boxes and straight lines? How much does the map also diagram the researcher's psyche? etc. 20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Useful for Dissertations By Ryan L. Lanham For the graphically-oriented person interested in grounded theory (or to some extent, Actor-Network-Theory ANT), this book offers a solid guide to the necessary mechanics for a dissertation. On the other hand, it's not a manual. There are no A-B-C or 1-2-3 steps for doing situational analysis a la Cresswell or other more hand-holding method texts. I view this as an advantage. Method ought to be a guide, not a script for performing research--especially qualitative research, but that is of course up to the researcher. If one combines this book with Charvaz (2006) and Strauss and Corbin (1998) the necessary pieces are there for passing any level of methodological rigor related to grounded theory. This is not ANT, but it is quite related. ANT comes from different intellectual antecedents and has a few different emphases that link contextually to Latour's project. Still, Latourians will see obvious similarities. Overall, Clarke wants to add Foucauldian genealogy to Straussian grounded theory, in order to broaden the data sources considered as discourse, and to make some of the description and theorizing tools graphical. I do not downplay the reworking of grounded theory, but it is a refined branch within grounded theory--not something altogether new, I'd argue. And I think it is not excessively modest for Clarke to describe it this way, too. Strauss was a giant and deserves more acclaim. I do not mean to detract from this important work. Situational analysis represents the state of the art of a symbolic interactionist methodology broadened out from where Strauss ended his work. Yet method isn't quite the right term--as Clarke discusses at some length in the book. Situational analysis is a way of thinking about research problems along with some tools for investigating the sort of approach that has built up from interactionists since Mead. If advisors or reviewers aren't sympathetic to ethnographic or interpretive approaches, there is nothing here that will overcome that hurdle in all probability. On the other hand, if you can do a rigorous qualitative project, this is an interesting way to go for someone interested in developing theory while investigating facts. I think it is particularly relevant to areas where little has been written or developed. There is a lot to be done with refining and extending the method, but the book nevertheless constitutes an exciting advance. Highly recommended.

Situational Analysis: Grounded Theory After the Postmodern Turn provides an innovative approach to grounded theory useful in a wide array of qualitative research projects. Extending Anselm Strauss's ecological social worlds/arenas/discourses framework, this book offers researchers three kinds of maps that place an emphasis on the range of differences rather than commonalities, as found via the traditional grounded theory approach. These maps include situational, social worlds/arena, and positional maps.

A timely and erudite critique of grounded theory, clearly favoring the Straussian line, and none the worse for that.--Antony Bryant Through this book, grounded theory has been thoroughly remodeled. Pulling together diverse traditions in social theory and providing a coherent methodological translation for them, this renovation is both scholarly and practical. The text is as an exemplar for updating and reinterpreting research approaches in light of contemporary philosophical and methodological sensibilities.--Karen D. Locke With passion and bravura Situational Analysis maps the structures, discourses, and silences hidden in qualitative research. Adele Clarke offers the best of both worlds: a theoretically grounded methodology and a methodologically useful theory. This book is a must read for every researcher contemplating a study of people doing things together.--Stefan Timmermans With passion and bravura Situational Analysis maps the structures, discourses, and silences hidden in qualitative research. Adele Clarke offers

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