

Social Facts in Durkheim's System

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Abstract. — DURKHEIM's controverted doctrine of social facts, which are basic in his system, may be coherently understood in the light of the influence exerted on him by WILHELM WUNDT with his principles of *actuality*, *creative synthesis*, and *relating analysis* — especially the two first. By way of criticism it is added that the principle of actuality does not hold in its pure form, while that of creative synthesis was inaccurately applied to social facts; hence the Durkheimian subjection of the individual to society. The last part of the article contains a positive approach to the whole question.

Preliminary

The present article has been written in commemoration of the first centenary of the birth of EMILE DURKHEIM (May 1858) whose influence in the field of the social sciences is known to all. Though he was preeminently a sociologist, as he repeatedly professed, yet his writings and method made a deep impression on various anthropological theories one of which, the structural-functional school of social anthropologists, claims him as one of its most illustrious forerunners.