Brief Contents

PART I	BASIC CONCEPTS	
1.	Introduction	3
2.	The Nature of Understanding	6
3.	Science as an Approach to Understanding	22
PART II	I. CORE PROCESSES	
4.	Creativity and the Generation of Ideas	39
5.	Focusing Concepts	75
6.	Clarifying Relationships Using Thought Experiments	9
PART I	II. FRAMEWORKS FOR THEORY CONSTRUCTION	
7.	Causal Models	137
8.	Mathematical Modeling	177
9.	Simulation as a Theory Development Method	237
10.	Grounded and Emergent Theory	250
11.	Historically Influential Systems of Thought	295
PART I	V. CONCLUDING ISSUES	
12.	Reading and Writing about Theories	33
13.	Epilogue	355

Contents

PAR	T I. BASIC CONCEPTS	
1 •	Organization of the Book 4	3
	Theories and Settings 5	
2 •	The Nature of Understanding	6
	The Nature of Reality 7 Concepts: The Building Blocks of Understanding 10 Conceptual Systems: The Bases for Deeper Understanding 14 Communication 16 Summary and Concluding Comments 18	
3 •	Science as an Approach to Understanding	22
	Socially Based Approaches to Understanding The Essentials of Scientific Endeavor 26 The Process of Theory Construction 28 Characteristics of a Good Theory 31 Science and Objectivity 33 Summary and Concluding Comments 33	
PAR	T II. CORE PROCESSES	
4 •	Creativity and the Generation of Ideas	39
	One Small Step for Science 40 Creativity 40 Choosing What to Theorize About 45 Literature Reviews 47 Heuristics for Generating Ideas 47 Scientists on Scientific Theorizing 68 Summary and Concluding Comments 71	

5 •	Focusing Concepts	75
	The Process of Instantiation 75	
	Shared Meaning, Surplus Meaning, and Nomological Networks 78 Practical Strategies for Specifying Conceptual Definitions 79	
	Practical Strategies for Specifying Conceptual Definitions 79 Multidimensional Constructs 82	
	Creating Constructs 84	
	An Example of Specifying Conceptual Definitions 85	
	Operationism 87 Summary and Concluding Comments 88	
	Summary and Concidentify Comments	
6 •	Clarifying Relationships Using Thought Experiments	91
	Thought Experiments for Relationships in Grounded and Emergent Theory 92	
	Describing Relationships with Different Types of Variables 93 Thought Experiments for Relationships between Categorical Variables 94	
	Thought Experiments for Relationships between Quantitative Variables 98	
	Thought Experiments for Relationships between Categorical	
	and Quantitative Variables 110 Thought Experiments for Moderated Relationships 114	
	Broader Uses of Hypothetical Factorial Designs in Thought Experiments 122	
	Summary and Concluding Comments 126	
	APPENDIX 6A. Thought Experiments for a Quantitative Cause	131
	and Categorical Effect: A Hypothetical Contingency Table Method	
	APPENDIX 6B. Thought Experiments for Moderated Moderation	133
PAR	III. FRAMEWORKS FOR THEORY CONSTRUCTION	
		137
	Causal Models	137
		137
	Causal Models Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141	137
	Causal Models Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145	137
	Causal Models Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141	137
	Causal ModelsTwo Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal138Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory141Types of Causal Relationships141Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships145Identifying Outcome Variables145Identifying Direct Causes146Indirect Causal Relationships146	137
	Causal Models Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 146 Moderated Causal Relationships 150	137
	Causal ModelsTwo Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal138Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory141Types of Causal Relationships141Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships145Identifying Outcome Variables145Identifying Direct Causes146Indirect Causal Relationships146	137
	Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 146 Moderated Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158	137
	Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 146 Moderated Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158 Expanding the Theory Further 159	137
	Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 146 Moderated Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158	137
7 •	Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158 Expanding the Theory Further 159 Perspectives on the Construction of Causal Theories 169 Summary and Concluding Comments 172	
7 •	Causal Models Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 146 Moderated Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158 Expanding the Theory Further 159 Perspectives on the Construction of Causal Theories 169 Summary and Concluding Comments 172 Mathematical Modeling	137 177
7 •	Causal Models Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158 Expanding the Theory Further 159 Perspectives on the Construction of Causal Theories 169 Summary and Concluding Comments 172 Mathematical Modeling Types of Variables: Categorical, Discrete, and Continuous 178	
7 •	Causal Models Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 146 Moderated Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158 Expanding the Theory Further 159 Perspectives on the Construction of Causal Theories 169 Summary and Concluding Comments 172 Mathematical Modeling	
7 •	Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 146 Moderated Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158 Expanding the Theory Further 159 Perspectives on the Construction of Causal Theories 169 Summary and Concluding Comments 172 Mathematical Modeling Types of Variables: Categorical, Discrete, and Continuous 178 Axioms and Theorems 179 Functions 179 Linear Functions 180	
7 •	Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158 Expanding the Theory Further 159 Perspectives on the Construction of Causal Theories 169 Summary and Concluding Comments 172 Mathematical Modeling Types of Variables: Categorical, Discrete, and Continuous 178 Axioms and Theorems 179 Functions 179 Linear Functions 180 Deterministic versus Stochastic Models 185	
7 •	Two Types of Relationships: Predictive and Causal 138 Causality and Grounded/Emergent Theory 141 Types of Causal Relationships 141 Constructing Theories with Causal Relationships 145 Identifying Outcome Variables 145 Identifying Direct Causes 146 Indirect Causal Relationships 146 Moderated Causal Relationships 150 Reciprocal or Bidirectional Causality 153 Spurious Relationships 155 Unanalyzed Relationships 158 Expanding the Theory Further 159 Perspectives on the Construction of Causal Theories 169 Summary and Concluding Comments 172 Mathematical Modeling Types of Variables: Categorical, Discrete, and Continuous 178 Axioms and Theorems 179 Functions 179 Linear Functions 180	

	Describing Accumulation: Integrals and Integration 190 Just-Identified, Overidentified, and Underidentified Models 191 Metrics 192 Types of Nonlinearity 193	
	Functions for Categorical Variables 203 Advanced Topics: Manipulating and Combining Functions 205 Multiple Variable Functions 208	
	Phases in Building a Mathematical Model 209 An Example Using Performance, Ability, and Motivation 210 An Example Using Cognitive Algebra 214 An Example Using Attitude Change 217 An Example Using a Traditional Causal Model 220 Chaos Theory 222 Catastrophe Theory 225 Additional Examples of Mathematical Models in the Social Sciences 226 Emergent Theory Construction and Mathematical Models 227 Summary and Concluding Comments 227	
	APPENDIX 8A. SPSS Code for Exploring Distribution Properties	232
	APPENDIX 8B. Additional Modeling Issues for the Performance, Motivation, and Ability Example	234
9 •	Simulation as a Theory Development Method Defining Simulations 238	237
	The Uses of Research Simulations 239 The Difference between Simulations and Laboratory Experiments 239 Basic Simulation Varieties 241 The Analysis of Criterion Systems as a Basis for Theory Construction 243 Simulations and Virtual Experiments 251 Agent-Based Modeling 251 Resources for Conducting Simulations 253 Summary and Concluding Comments 253	
10 •	Grounded and Emergent Theory: An Overview 257 Positivism "versus" Constructivism 258 Framing the Problem 259 The Role of Past Literature 260 Collecting Qualitative Data 261 Field Notes and Memo Writing 268 Theoretical Sampling 269 Analyzing and Coding Data 269 The Statistical Exploration of Relationships 275 Process Analysis in Emergent Theorizing 276 Moving to Theoretical Statements: Using Principles of Rhetoric 277 Summary and Concluding Comments 281	256
	APPENDIX 10A. The Limits of Information Processing	288
11 •	Historically Influential Systems of Thought	295
	Grand Theories 296 Frameworks Using Metaphors 307 Frameworks Emphasizing Stability and Change 312	

Psychological Frameworks 314 Frameworks Inspired by Methodology Summary and Concluding Comments

PART IV. CONCLUDING ISSUES		
Reading about Theories in Outlets Emphasizing Theory Tests and Confirmatory Approaches to Science 331 Reading about Theories in Outlets Emphasizing Grounded/Emergent Theory 334 Writing about Theories 337 Grant Proposals, Technical Reports, and Presentations 344 Summary and Concluding Comments 345	331	
APPENDIX 12A. Inferring Theoretical Relationships from the Choice of Statistical Tests	347	
Competing Theories 355 Post Hoc Theorizing 355 Influential Science 356 Careers and Creative Theorizing in Science 357 Scientific Paradigms 360 A Program of Self-Study 361 Concluding Comments 363	355	
References	365	
Author Index	379	
Subject Index	385	
About the Authors	391	

318 324