On knowing, accounting and the methodological position of Geertz

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Abstract

We argue that interpretive anthropology a la Geertz has been inaccurately interpreted by many accounting methodologists. They overlook the theoretical anchoring of Geertzian conceptions of cultural schemes which are determined “by isolating its elements”, assessing “internal relationships”, and viewed “in some general way”. This paper traces the implications of this on fundamental consequences for accounting research methodology and establishes a direction to critique from a position from where the claims of Geertz should apparently be held.

Keywords: Geertz, interpretive anthropology, knowing