Contents

xi
3
4
6
8
9
10
11
12
13
15
15
19
22
24
26
28
30
32
33
37
38
41
44
47
50
54

4	Institutional reality	55
	The construction of institutional facts	56
	Constitutive rules and status function declarations	59
	The background	6
	Does language create institutional facts?	62
	Is Searle an individualist?	6
	Indexing norms and institutional reality	69
	Conclusion	73
Pa	art Three: Language	
5	Signification	77
	Saussure's theory of signification	80
	The ontology of the sign	84
	Linguistic arbitrariness	92
	Conclusion	90
6	Langue and parole	100
	Speech communities	10
	Communities of practice	103
	Linguistic circles	105
	Communities of practice as associations	10
	Linguistic circles and speech communities	109
	From langue to parole	112
	Meaning in practice	110
	Conclusion	119
7	Categories, essences, and sexes	121
	Linguistic hegemony	123
	Natural kinds	125
	Cluster kinds	127
	Kinds and categories	131
	The social construction of the human sexes	132
	Are the sexes natural kinds?	133
	Sex and gender	136
	Conclusion	138
Pa	art Four: Discourse	
8	Discourse	143
	What is discourse?	146
	Discursive formations	150
	Discursive norm circles	153
	Conclusion	157
9	Cultures and classes	159
	Cultures and boundaries	160
	Cultures as national	163
	Cultures: constructed or real?	17

	Contents	ix
	Classes	173
	Conclusion	180
10	Subjects	183
	What is the subject?	184
	The subject in Althusser and Foucault	187
	Butler's attack on the subject	190
	Butler's performative account of the subject	194
	Moderate constructionism and subjects	200
	Conclusion	203
Pa	rt Five: Knowledge	
11	Knowledge	207
	Knowledge as a form of belief	209
	Justifying knowledge	212
	Types of knowledge	214
	Epistemological circles	217
	Science and epistemic circles	224
	Social influences on epistemic standards	228
	Epistemic relativism and its implications	230
	Conclusion	232
12	Reality	234
	Berger and Luckmann	236
	Rhetoric and reality	238
	The genealogy of neo-Kantian constructionism	244
	The incoherence of neo-Kantian constructionism	246
	Conclusion	250
13	Conclusion	253
	The social ontology of normative structures	253
	Realist social constructionism	258
	The rebuttal of radical constructionisms	260
	Towards a constructionist realist social theory	264
Bib	pliography	267
Ind	lex	279