

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>List of figures</i> | <i>page</i> x |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | xi |
| 1 Introduction | 1 |
| The problem of structure and agency | 1 |
| Emergence and social structure | 4 |
| How to read this book | 9 |
| Critical realism | 11 |
| 2 Emergence | 13 |
| Relational emergence | 14 |
| Strong emergence | 28 |
| Morphogenesis and morphostasis | 33 |
| Conclusion | 38 |
| 3 Cause | 40 |
| Covering law theories of causality | 40 |
| Realism and causal powers | 43 |
| Actual causation | 47 |
| Reductionism | 53 |
| Downward causation | 58 |
| Conclusion | 62 |
| 4 Social ontology and social structure | 64 |
| The elements of emergence | 66 |
| A method for social ontology | 68 |
| Applying the method | 71 |
| Social structure | 76 |
| Three facets of social structure | 77 |
| What kind of structural element is social structure? | 80 |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Four concepts of social structure | 83 |
| Conclusion | 86 |
| 5 Agency | 87 |
| The emergence of the mental | 89 |
| An emergentist theory of action | 93 |
| Bourdieu's habitus | 99 |
| Archer versus Bourdieu | 102 |
| Synthesising Archer and Bourdieu | 108 |
| Conclusion | 113 |
| 6 Normative institutions | 115 |
| Theories of social institutions | 116 |
| Norm circles | 122 |
| Norm circle boundaries | 127 |
| Intersectionality between normative circles | 131 |
| Change in social institutions | 133 |
| Institutions and structuration theory | 138 |
| Conclusion | 142 |
| 7 Organisations | 144 |
| Interaction groups | 146 |
| Associations | 149 |
| The causal power of organisations | 152 |
| Individuals in organisations | 158 |
| Authority and organisations | 161 |
| Organisations and institutions | 164 |
| Conclusion | 167 |
| 8 Social events | 169 |
| A micro-social interaction | 170 |
| Micro-social explanations | 176 |
| From micro to macro | 179 |
| Macro-actors and macro-consequences | 182 |
| Collective macro-events | 185 |
| Statistical macro-events: Durkheim and suicide | 186 |
| Conclusion | 190 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Contents</i> | ix |
| 9 Conclusion | 192 |
| The causal power of social structures | 192 |
| For and against naturalism | 196 |
| The spatial disarticulation of social structures | 199 |
| An agenda for research | 202 |
| <i>References</i> | 206 |
| <i>Index</i> | 218 |