

THE CONSTITUTION OF BDTH

Constitutional Edition

P A P E R 25

Economy

P O S I T I O N

BDTH proceeds from the working position that explanatory economy possesses constitutional value.

Where competing explanations account equally for the same observations, the explanation requiring fewer independent assumptions should ordinarily be preferred.

Economy does not determine truth.

It guides enquiry.

ECONOMY

SIMPLICITY

Economy should not be confused with oversimplification.

Simple explanations frequently fail because they omit essential relationships.

Economical explanations preserve explanatory power while reducing unnecessary complexity.

The distinction is fundamental.

ARCHITECTURE

Coherent systems repeatedly exhibit economy.

Nothing essential appears absent.

Nothing unnecessary appears sustained.

The observer frequently recognises this quality before consciously analysing it.

Economy therefore constitutes one of the ordinary signatures of coherence.

ECONOMY

HUMAN UNDERSTANDING

Human explanation naturally accumulates complexity.

Additional causes.

Additional mechanisms.

Additional exceptions.

Sometimes this accumulation reflects increasing understanding.

Sometimes it reflects the progressive preservation of unnecessary architecture.

Economy continually asks which is occurring.

REFINEMENT

Progress frequently consists not in adding explanation, but in removing it.

What remains continues carrying the explanatory load.

Nothing essential has been lost.

The architecture has become more economical.

ECONOMY

WORKING POSITION

BDTH proceeds from the working position that explanatory economy should continually refine the framework.

Every unnecessary proposition weakens the architecture.

Every unnecessary term incurs explanatory debt.

CLOSING POSITION

Economy is not the reduction of thought.

It is the reduction of unnecessary thought.

The strongest architecture frequently explains more by requiring less.