

Contents

<i>List of boxes</i>	xi
<i>Preface and Acknowledgments</i>	xii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiv
1 An Introduction to the Notion of Common Sense	1
<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>It's a Matter of Common Sense</i>	1
<i>To Purchase, or Not to Purchase: Which Option Is Common Sense?</i>	2
<i>Is the Earth Flat or Round: What Does Common Sense Tell Us?</i>	4
<i>Staring at the Sun: Common Sense Tells Us Not to Do It (Even if There Is a Rare Eclipse)</i>	4
<i>The Study of Common Sense: A Focus on the Everyday Interactions of Individuals</i>	6
<i>Summary</i>	9
2 Common Sense as a Paradigm of Thought	10
<i>Introduction</i>	10
<i>Paradigms of Thought: How Social Order Should Be Structured</i>	11
<i>Tradition</i>	12
<i>Faith</i>	24
<i>Enlightened, Rational Thought</i>	32
<i>Common Sense</i>	43
<i>Summary</i>	48

3 Explaining Common Sense: From the Ancient Greeks to the
Early Twentieth Century

50

Introduction 50

Examining Common Sense 52

*The Ancient Greeks and Modern Philosophy: Common Sense and
Skepticism* 52

Ancient Greek Skepticism 54

*Modern Philosophy and Skepticism: Rene Descartes and David
Hume* 55

Thomas Reid and Common Sense 58

*G.E. Moore: Refutation of Skepticism and the Promotion of
Common Sense* 60

Bertrand Russell and Common Sense 61

Thomas Paine and Common Sense 63

Karl Marx, Conflict Theory, and Common Sense 65

Max Weber, Rationality, and Common Sense 66

*C. Wright Mills, Situated Actions, and Vocabularies of Motives
and Common Sense* 68

Symbolic Interactionism, Social Action, and Common Sense 70

William James, Pragmatism, Habits, and Consciousness 70

*Charles Horton Cooley, Symbols, Language, and Social
Interaction* 72

*George Herbert Mead, Pragmatism, the Social Act, Gestures,
and Language* 73

*Herbert Blumer, Meanings, Language, Gestures, and Social
Action* 76

Erving Goffman, the Presentation of Self, and Common Sense 78

Phenomenology and Common Sense 79

Edmund Husserl, the Rudiments of Common Sense 80

*Alfred Schutz, the Life-World, Stocks of Knowledge, and
Common Sense* 83

*Peter Berger, the Social Construction of Reality, and Common
Sense* 85

Ethnomethodology and the Commonsense World 86

*Harold Garfinkel, Taken-for-Granted World, Accounts, and the
Commonsense World* 87

Summary 91

4 Explaining Common Sense: From the Early Twentieth Century to the Postmodern Era 93

Introduction 93

Contemporary Scholarship in the Study of Common Sense 95

Hermeneutic Phenomenology and Common Sense 95

Martin Heidegger (1889–1976) 96

Hans-Georg Gadamer (1900–2002) 97

Paul Ricoeur (1913–2005) 98

Cornelius Castoriadis (1922–1997) 99

Antonio Gramsci and Common Sense 101

Jurgen Habermas and Common Sense 103

Immanuel Wallerstein and Common Sense 104

Anthony Giddens, Structuration Theory, and Common Sense 106

Randall Collins, Interaction Ritual Chains, and Common Sense 108

McDonnell, Bail, and Tavory, Resonance Theory and Common Sense 109

Feminism and Post-Feminism and Common Sense 111

Postmodernism and Common Sense 114

Posthumanism and Transhumanism 117

Postcolonialism 118

Summary 123

5 Learning About and Adhering to Common Sense 125

Introduction 125

Common Sense is Learned Behavior 125

The Socialization Process: A Critical Aspect of Learning About Common Sense 127

Primary Groups 129

Agents of Socialization 130

Cyber Socialization and Social Media 134

Observation and Personal Experience 136

The Development of Enlightened Rational Thought and Reason 142

Social Theoretical Explanations on How We Learn and Common Sense 143

Social Learning Theory 143

Symbolic Interactionism 144

Subcultural Theory 147

Anomie/Strain Theory 148

	<i>Differential Association Theory</i>	150
	<i>Labeling Theory</i>	151
	<i>Control/Social Bond Theory</i>	153
	<i>Adhering to Common Sense</i>	154
	<i>Common Sense</i>	155
	<i>Common, Common Sense</i>	161
	<i>Summary</i>	163
6	Violating Common Sense: Uncommon Sense	164
	<i>Introduction</i>	164
	<i>Impediments to Common Sense</i>	164
	<i>Failure to Learn</i>	165
	<i>The Lack of a Formal Higher Education</i>	166
	<i>Overly Emotional and Irrational Fear</i>	167
	<i>Believing in Weird Things: Pseudoscience, Superstitions, and Other Oddities</i>	169
	<i>Ignorance and Stupidity</i>	173
	<i>People Doing Dumb and Stupid Things: The Award Goes To ...</i>	175
	<i>Darwin Awards</i>	175
	<i>The Stella Awards</i>	179
	<i>Dumb Criminals</i>	182
	<i>Not Adhering to Common Sense</i>	188
	<i>Uncommon Sense: It's Bad for Our Health</i>	188
	<i>Common, Uncommon Sense</i>	202
	<i>Summary</i>	204
7	Can Common Sense Rise as the Prevailing Paradigm of Thought?	206
	<i>Introduction</i>	206
	<i>Common Sense in Review</i>	206
	<i>The Limitations of Common Sense</i>	211
	<i>Enlightened, Rational Thought Should be the Prevailing Paradigm of Thought</i>	212
	<i>Summary</i>	216
	<i>Appendix A "Common, Common Sense"</i>	217
	<i>Appendix B "Tim-isms"</i>	222
	<i>Appendix C "Common, Uncommon Sense"</i>	226
	<i>Bibliography</i>	231
	<i>Index</i>	248