

### THE THREE EPISTEMOLOGICAL PARADIGMS (Edgar MORIN)

The scientific paradigm	The scientific paradigm	The complex paradigm (1)
<b>"Scientific reductionism"</b>	<b>Reduction</b>	<b>Systemic approach</b>
One manipulates a reduced model of reality.	One confuses reduced a reality for the scientific analysis with the reality itself.	One tries to take into account as much data as possible, knowing that a reality itself escapes us.
<b>Specialization</b>	<b>Disjunction</b>	<b>Union of distinction and conjunction</b>
One distinguishes between different fields, levels, problems... to analyze each one separately.	One autonomizes the different disciplines, domains, levels, problems...	One tries to unite the distinction (necessary to the perception) and the conjunction (which restores the interrelations, the articulations, the multidimensionalities).
<b>Rationality</b>	<b>Rationalization</b>	<b>"Open rationality"</b>
-One uses as an instrument of knowledge and control	-One seeks to build a perfect and totalizing coherence around a unique principle (Copernican paradigm).	-One is conscious of the limits of logic, of the perverse effects of theoretical closure, of the inexistence of a unique principle of coherence (Hubblean paradigm).
-One tries to eliminate imprecision, uncertainty and contradiction.	One considers legitimate only precise and certain knowledge.	-One works with imprecision, uncertainty and contradiction.
-One seeks the truth.	-One is certain to hold the truth.	-One turns around the problem of the truth by passing from perspective to perspective, from partial truth to partial truth.
- -One strives to be objective.	-One is persuaded to be objective.	-One knows that the subject is always present in the observation of the object, and we look for intersubjective procedures of objectivation.

(1) In the sense of "complexity paradigm".

According to Edgar MORIN, in particular:

- *La Méthode 3. La connaissance de la connaissance [The knowledge of knowledge]*, Paris : Seuil, 1986, 256 p.

- *Introduction à la pensée complexe [Introduction to complex thinking]*, ESF éditeur, Paris, 1990, 160 p.

English version of : "Les trois paradigmes épistémologiques, selon Edgar Morin", [www.christianpuren.com/bibliothèque-de-travail/063/](http://www.christianpuren.com/bibliothèque-de-travail/063/)