

Bruno Latour

Bruno Latour is a French sociologist, anthropologist, theorist in Science and Technology Studies (STS) and currently Professor at Sciences Po Paris. From 1982- 2006, he served as Professor at the Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines in Paris and for various periods was visiting professor at UCSD, the London School of Economics, and the History of Science Department at Harvard University.

He is a prolific writer and has written over fifteen books and published over 120 articles.

Awards and Honors

Bruno Latour is the recipient of over 15 awards and honors, a few of which are mentioned below:

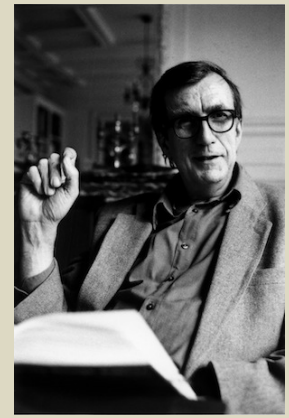
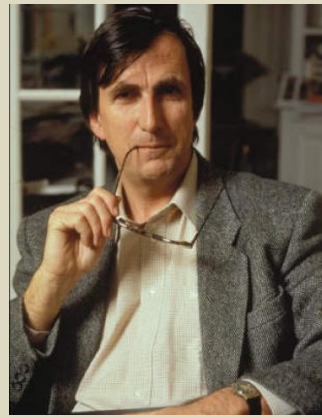
- **1992:** Bernal Prize awarded by the 4S Society.
- **2008:** Medal of Honor Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Bologna.
- **2008:** Recipient of the Siegfried Unseld Prize for his life achievements (Frankfurt).
- **2010:** Recipient of the "Kulturpreis" 2009 from the University of Munich.
- **2010:** Recipient of the Nam June Paik Center Award.
- **2012:** Awarded the Legion of Honour.

Notable Publications

- Laboratory Life (1979)
- Science in Action (1987)
- We Have Never Been Modern (1991)
- Politics of Nature (1999)
- Reassembling the Social – An Introduction to Actor-Network Theory (2005)

Actor-Network Theory

The theory's aim is to describe a society of humans and non-humans as equal actors tied together into networks built and maintained in order to achieve a particular goal, for example the development of a product.



Key Concepts

Actors: are all “entities that do things” [Latour, 1992].

Actors can be human and non-human, with no distinction being made between them.

Black Box: it is a collection of entities (can be actors or networks or both) that is considered stable and the details of which need no longer be considered.

Network: it is a group of unspecified relationships between entities (actors). Actors and networks are mutually constitutive.

Prescription: properties of a setting that make certain things possible and others impossible are called prescriptions.

Intermediary: it is the link that connects actors to networks and defines the network itself. Actors circulate intermediaries between themselves to form networks.

Related Thinkers

Michel Callon

Michel Callon is currently a Professor of Sociology at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines in Paris and an influential author in the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS). He is also one of the leading proponents of the Actor-Network Theory

John Law

John Law is currently a Professor of Sociology at the Open University in the U.K. He is also one of the directors of the Centre for Research on Socio Cultural Change as well as a key proponent of the Actor-Network Theory.

Michel Serres

Michel Serres is a writer and theorist, having earned his doctorate in philosophy by publishing his thesis on Leibniz in 1968 from the Ecole Normale Supérieure. He is an influence on Latour, amongst other intellectuals.