

Sociology plagiarism case study
by Joslyn Brenton (using the model of Charlotte Bronson) *

1. Here is a paragraph quoted from p. 114 of Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory*. Please read it carefully.

“Undoubtedly this state of dissociation does not always present itself with equal distinctiveness. It is sufficient for the disassociation to exist unquestionably in the numerous important instances cited, for us to prove that the social fact exists separately from its individual effects. Moreover, even when the dissociation is not immediately observable, it can often be made so with the help of certain methodological devices. Indeed it is essential to embark on such procedures if one wishes to refine the social fact from any amalgam and so observe it in its pure state.”

- Calhoun, C., Gerteis, J.M., Pfaff, S., Schmidt, K. and Virk, I. 2002. *Classical Sociological Theory*, 114. Blackwell Publishers, Inc.

2. Here are eight different sentences from other papers that refer to Calhoun. Read each one carefully and determine whether it does or does not give paper credit to the paper above. Explain your answer.

____ 1. In addition, even when the dissociation is not observable, it can often become observable with the help of certain methodological devices.

____ 2. In addition, even when the dissociation is not observable, it can often become observable with the help of certain methodological devices (Calhoun et al. 2002).

____ 3. “In addition, even when the dissociation is not observable, it can often become observable with the help of certain methodological devices” (Calhoun et. al. 2002).

____ 4. Even when the dissociation is not always recognizable, sometimes you can see it with the help of specific types of tools found in methodology.

____ 5. Even when the dissociation is not always recognizable, sometimes you can see it with the help of specific types of tools found in methodology (Calhoun et al. 2002).

____ 6. Dissociation is a concept that is hard to measure because it isn't always self-evident, however with the help of methodological devices, the phenomena can become more recognizable.

____ 7. Dissociation is a concept that is hard to measure because it isn't always self-evident, however with the help of methodological devices, the phenomena can become more recognizable (Calhoun et al. 2002).

____ 8. Dissociation exemplifies how social facts can be extricable from individual effects, and when this phenomena isn't clearly observable, we can turn to methodology to help us measure it (Calhoun et al. 2002).

* This pedagogical tool is based on an exercise designed by [Professor Charlotte Bronson](#), Department of Plant Pathology, Iowa State University. [Bronson's original exercise](#) is intended for students in the life sciences. With Prof. Bronson's permission, **Joslyn Brenton**, NC State, adapted her exercise for sociology students.