

The abstract logical distinction between intersubjectively binding judgments of facts and subjective judgments of values is always already overcome in favor of an intersubjectively binding minimal ethic by the claim of every argument as a dialogical utterance to be meaningful. This minimal ethic, which is implicitly acknowledged by everyone who argues and which implies, among other things, an engagement on behalf of the historical realization of the unlimited community of communication, is itself presupposed as the condition of the possibility of building consensus, and hence of finding the truth, even by a value-free, empirical-analytical science. At least this minimal ethic of "logical socialism," which was first conceived by Charles S. Peirce, can and must be made the standard of its value judgments by a critical social science that has to reconstruct the historical self-experience of the human species.