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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: a relation to the world of concern -- Values within reason -- Reason beyond rationality: values and practical reason -- Beings for whom things matter -- Understanding the ethical dimension of life -- Dignity -- Critical social science and its rationales -- Implications for social science -- Appendix: comments on philosophical theories of ethics.
Sommario/riassunto	Andrew Sayer undertakes a fundamental critique of social science's difficulties in acknowledging that people's relation to the world is one of concern. As sentient beings, capable of flourishing and suffering,

and particularly vulnerable to how others treat us, our view of the world is substantially evaluative. Yet modernist ways of thinking encourage the common but extraordinary belief that values are beyond reason, and merely subjective or matters of convention, with little or nothing to do with the kind of beings people are, the quality of their social relations, their material circumstances or well-being. The author shows how social theory and philosophy need to change to reflect the complexity of everyday ethical concerns and the importance people attach to dignity. He argues for a robustly critical social science that explains and evaluates social life from the standpoint of human flourishing.
