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Cover; Realism and Sociology; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; List of figures; Acknowledgements; Introduction; 1 The philosophical logic of immediacy: the epistemic fallacy and the genetic fallacy; Introduction; Popper and the critique of positivism; Popper on post-Kantian epistemology, falsifiability and metaphysical realism; Popper, the epistemic fallacy and the genetic fallacy; Putnam's critique of metaphysical realism; Internal realism: conceptual relativity and realism; Searle on external realism and conceptual relativity; Putnam and the philosophical logic of immediacy  
2 The influence of empiricism on social ontology: methodological individualism and methodological collectivismIntroduction; Anticipating the sociological logic of immediacy; Methodological individualism defined; Assessing methodological individualism: the need for a non-individualist ontology; Methodological collectivism: overcoming the problems?; 3 Post-Wittgensteinian pragmatism: Rorty, anti-representationalism and politics; Introduction; Realism and representation; Anti-representationalism and the philosophical logic of immediacy; Liberalism and ethnocentrism; Nietzschean liberalism Poetry contra politicsPragmatism and female being; From postmodernism to positivistic-conservatism; 4 Post-Wittgensteinian sociology: Giddens' ontology of practices; Introduction; The importance of ontology; Rule-following practices; The ontological status of structures; Problems with rules; Problems with linking the micro and the macro levels; What is the purpose of structuration theory? Or, what is the link between ontology and methodology?; 5 Social realism: overcoming the sociological logic of immediacy; Introduction Bhaskar on the philosophy of science: from empirical realism to transcendental realismTranscendental realist naturalism: Bhaskar's social ontology; Developing the ontology; Challenges to social realism; Rejoinder to the challenges; 6 Social realism and the study of chronic unemployment; Introduction; Defining the underclass; Studying the chronically unemployed as members of the working class; Doing 'fiddly jobs': an ethnographic understanding of coping strategies to deal with structural unemployment; The role of gender; The underclass and the sociological logic of immediacy  
Realism as an underlabourerNotes for the construction of a domain-specific meta-theory for researching the chronically unemployed in Britain; Notes; Bibliography; Index

**Sommario/riassunto**

In recent years, methodological debates in the social sciences have increasingly focused on issues relating to epistemology. Realism and Sociology makes an original contribution to the debate, charting a middle ground between postmodernism and positivism. Critics often hold that realism tries to assume some definitive account of reality. Against this it is argued throughout the book that realism can combine a strong definition of social reality with an anti-foundational approach to knowledge. The position of realist anti-foundationalism that is argued for is developed and defended