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**Natural kinds, social kinds, mixed kinds**

ABSTRACT

Talk of social ontology brings the ontological creativity of the social to mind – the power of collective thinking to bring new things into existence, with formal institutions, like nations or banks, or institutionally based entities, like money, as primary examples. But thinking about the social as a separate ontological realm leads us to overemphasise the gap between nature and culture – social creation is much more about tweaking, transforming and rethinking what is already there than it is about inventing new kinds of objects. I will argue that old fashioned conceptual analysis gives us a more useful and fluid framework for social analysis, than does ontology or metaphysics.