

## **Glossary entry**

**social formation:** The profile of a given human community in terms of its political, economic and cultural history; it can include the immediate working environment of a Living Educational Theory researcher and reach out to embrace the whole of Humanity.

## **Further explanation**

Bourdieu makes the following point about analysing social formations in terms of the automatism of the *habitus*

“The objective adjustment between dispositions and structures ensures a conformity to objective demands and urgencies which has nothing to do with rules and conscious compliance with rules, and gives an appearance of finality which in no way implies conscious positing of the ends objectively attained. Thus, paradoxically, social science makes greatest use of the language of rules precisely in the cases where it is most totally inadequate, that is, in analysing social formations in which, because of the constancy of the objective conditions over time, rules have a particularly small part to play in the determination of practices, which is largely entrusted to the automatism of the *habitus*.”

(Bourdieu, p. 145, 1990)

Living Educational Theory researchers explain their educational influences in the learning of social formations in terms of the unique constellation of values that they use in influencing the learning of social formations.

Bourdieu, P. (1990) *The Logic of Practice*. Stanford CA; Stanford University Press.