Representing Reality: Discourse, Rhetoric and Social Construction

Jonathan Potter

Jonathan Potter's "Representing Reality" is a masterwork on the creation of 'facts' in social life. His work draws from and integrates several areas of related literature including discursive social psychology, rhetoric, discourse analysis, sociology, and ethnomethodology. I was particularly interested in how Potter showed that different assertions of what reality 'is' are often voiced in a competitive, contested climate and how those asserted realities implicitly are created to forestall challenges from other versions of 'what the facts are'.