

Making Reality Count: Six Ontological Standards for Evaluation

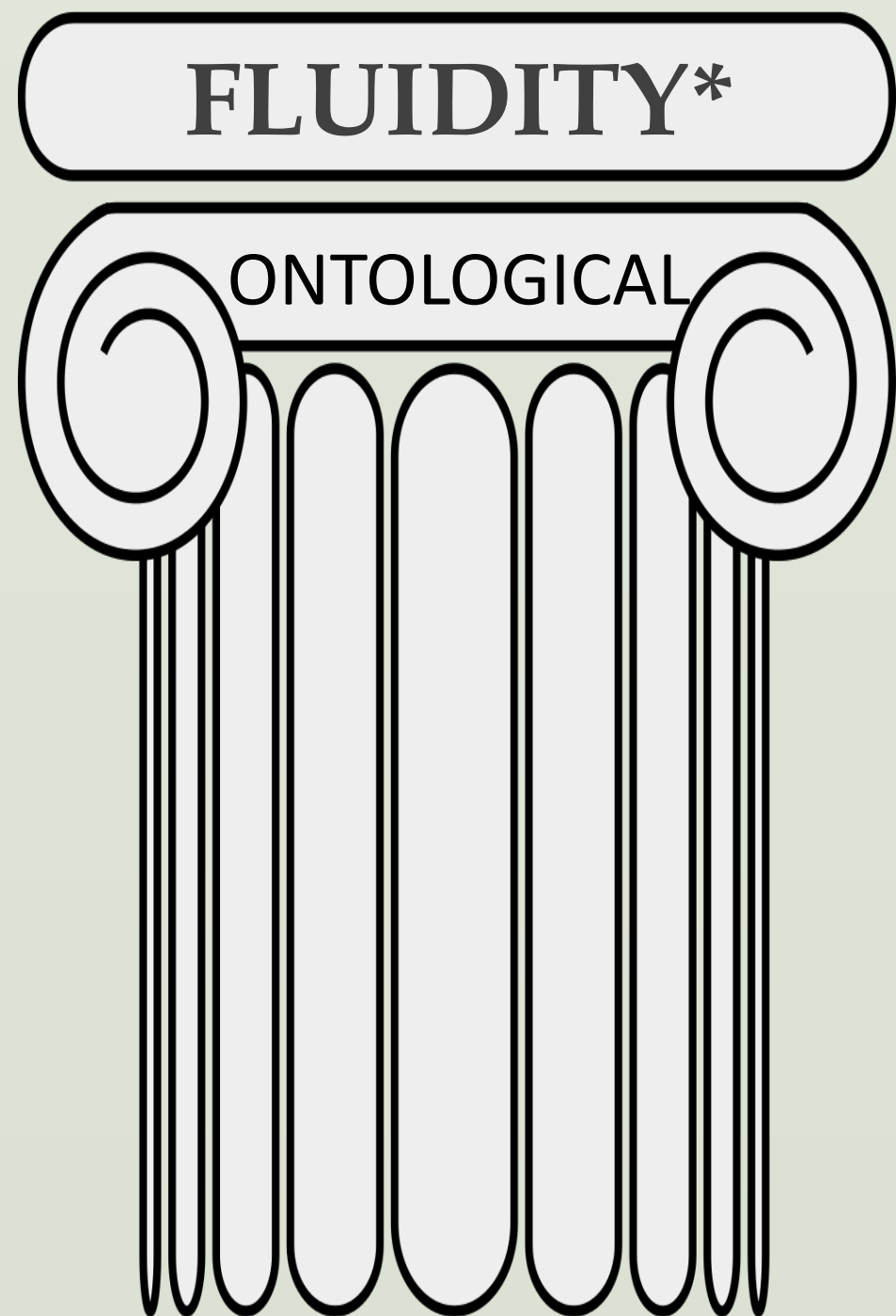
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Ontologically Integrative Evaluation (OIE)

OIE grounds all evaluative decisions on six ontological standards for evaluation. Two of these proposed tenets expand the work of others notable in the field, while the remaining four(*) represent new standards for evaluation. Building evaluation practice upon these standards reframes our thinking and shifts our practice such that it better reflects the lived realities of communities and thus yields more useful finding.

ONTOLOGICAL COMPETENCE

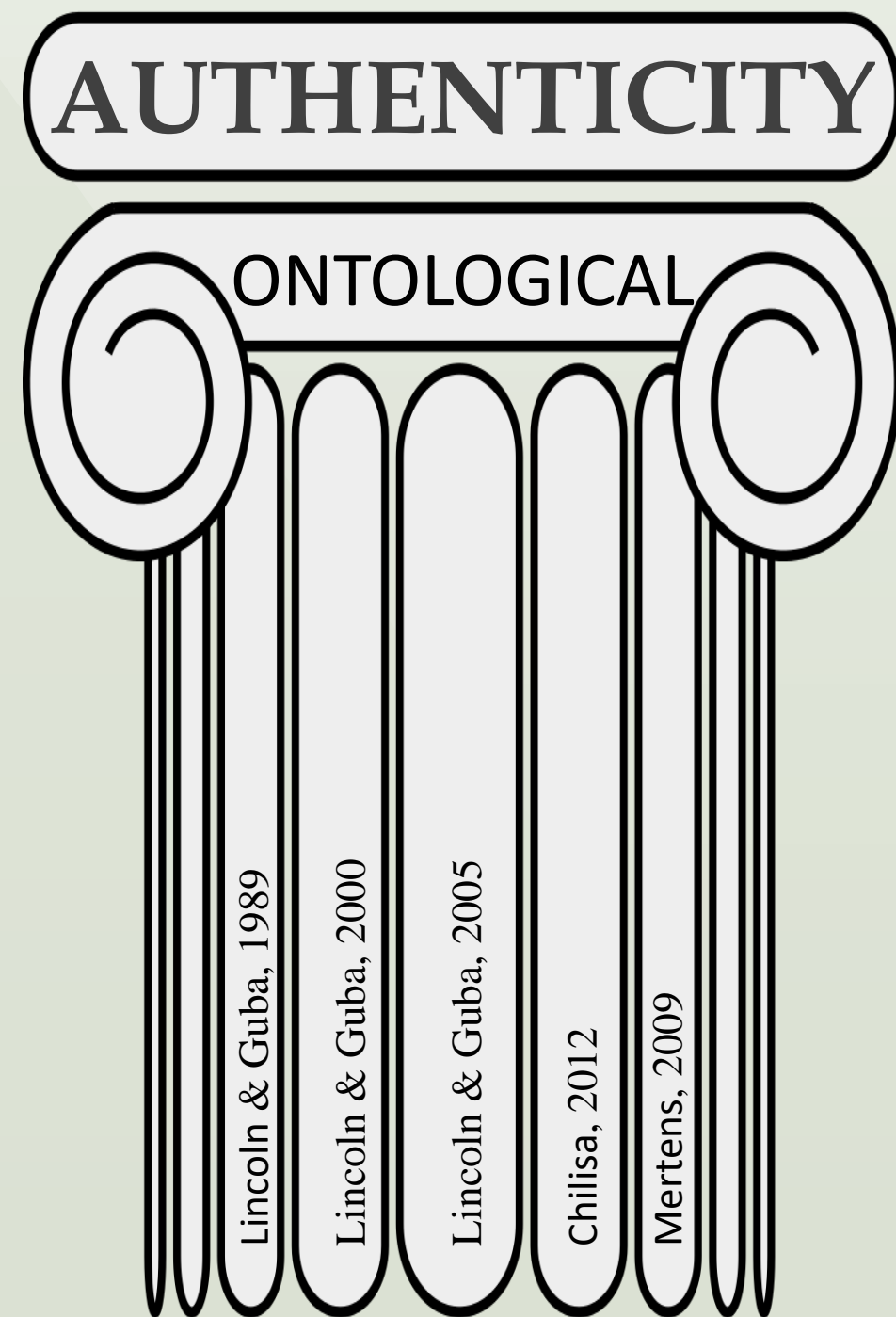
- ❑ Continuous interrogation of own ontology
- ❑ Knowledgeable and respectful of others' ontologies
- ❑ Open to changes in own ontology
- ❑ Does not privilege own ontology over others' ontologies



FLUIDITY*

ONTOLOGICAL

A shift in one's ontological stance that occurs over time in response to changes in position/location and subsequent new interactions with the material and nonmaterial world.

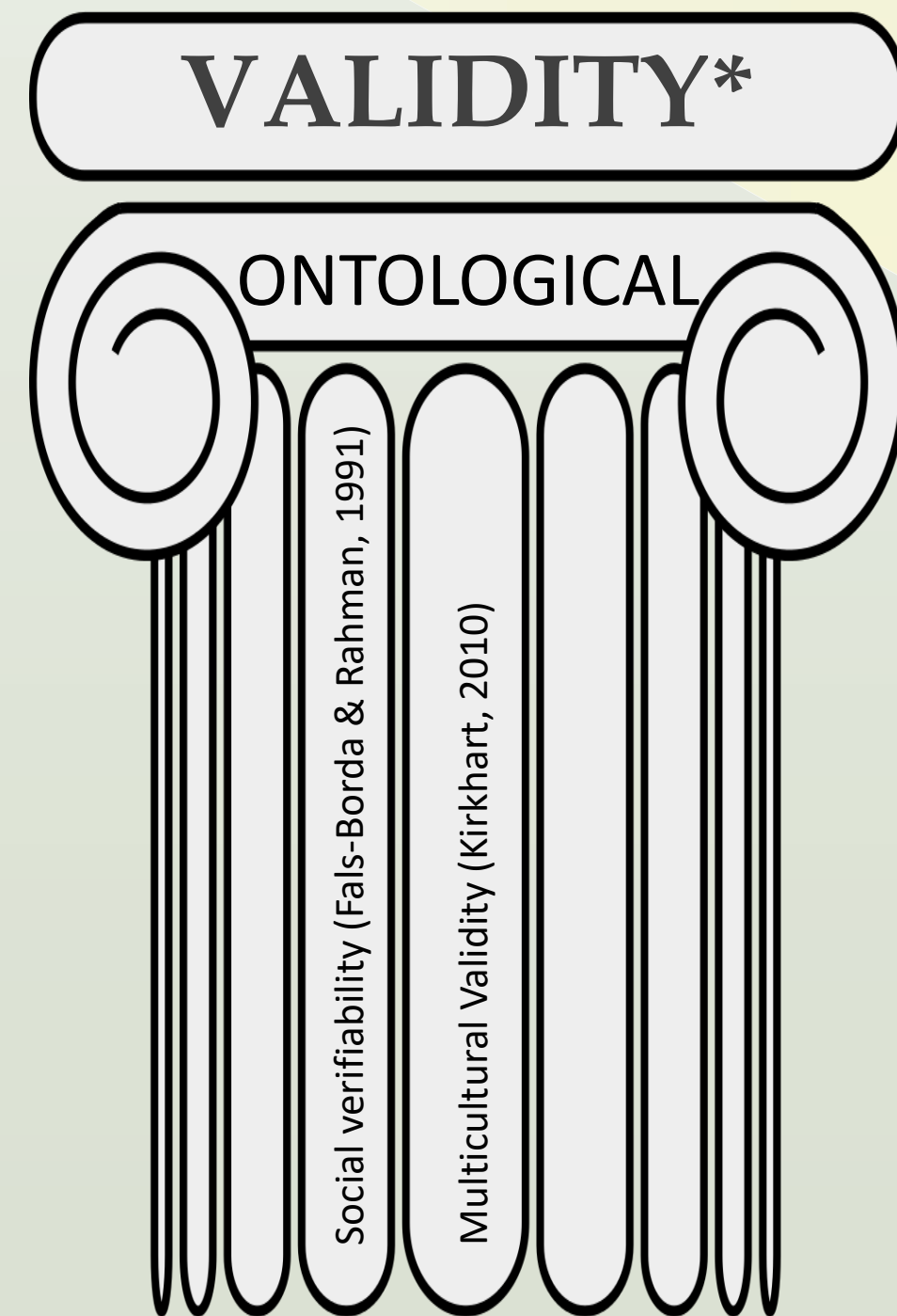


AUTHENTICITY

ONTOLOGICAL

Lincoln & Guba, 1989
Lincoln & Guba, 2000
Lincoln & Guba, 2005
Chilisa, 2012
Mertens, 2009

The extent to which all actors engaged with an evaluation gain understanding of their own and other's realities through interaction with one another and the environment.

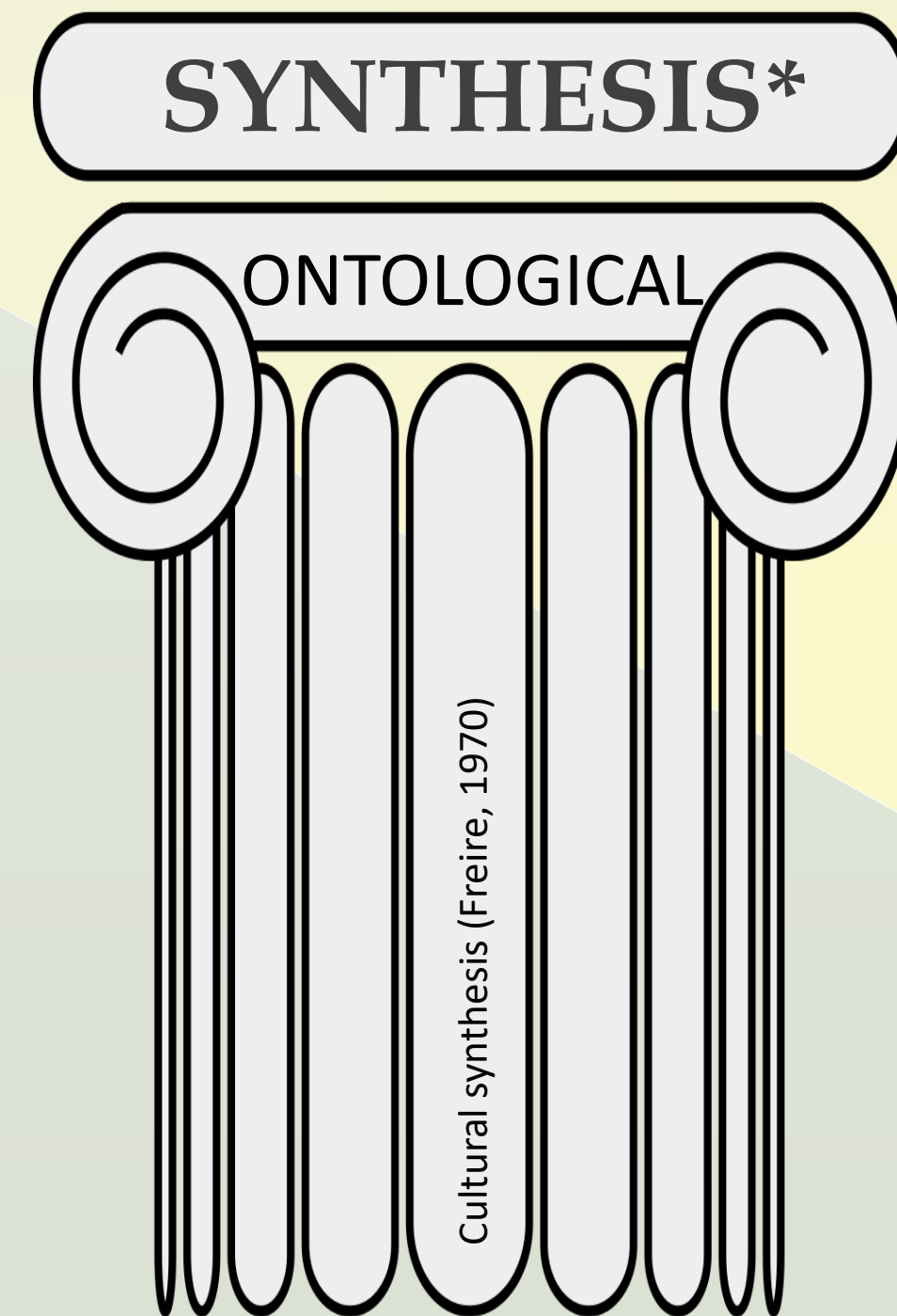


VALIDITY*

ONTOLOGICAL

Social verifiability (Fals-Borda & Rahman, 1991)
Multicultural Validity (Kirkhart, 2010)

The accurate and trustworthy representation of diverse realities as experienced across actors engaged with and impacted by an evaluation.

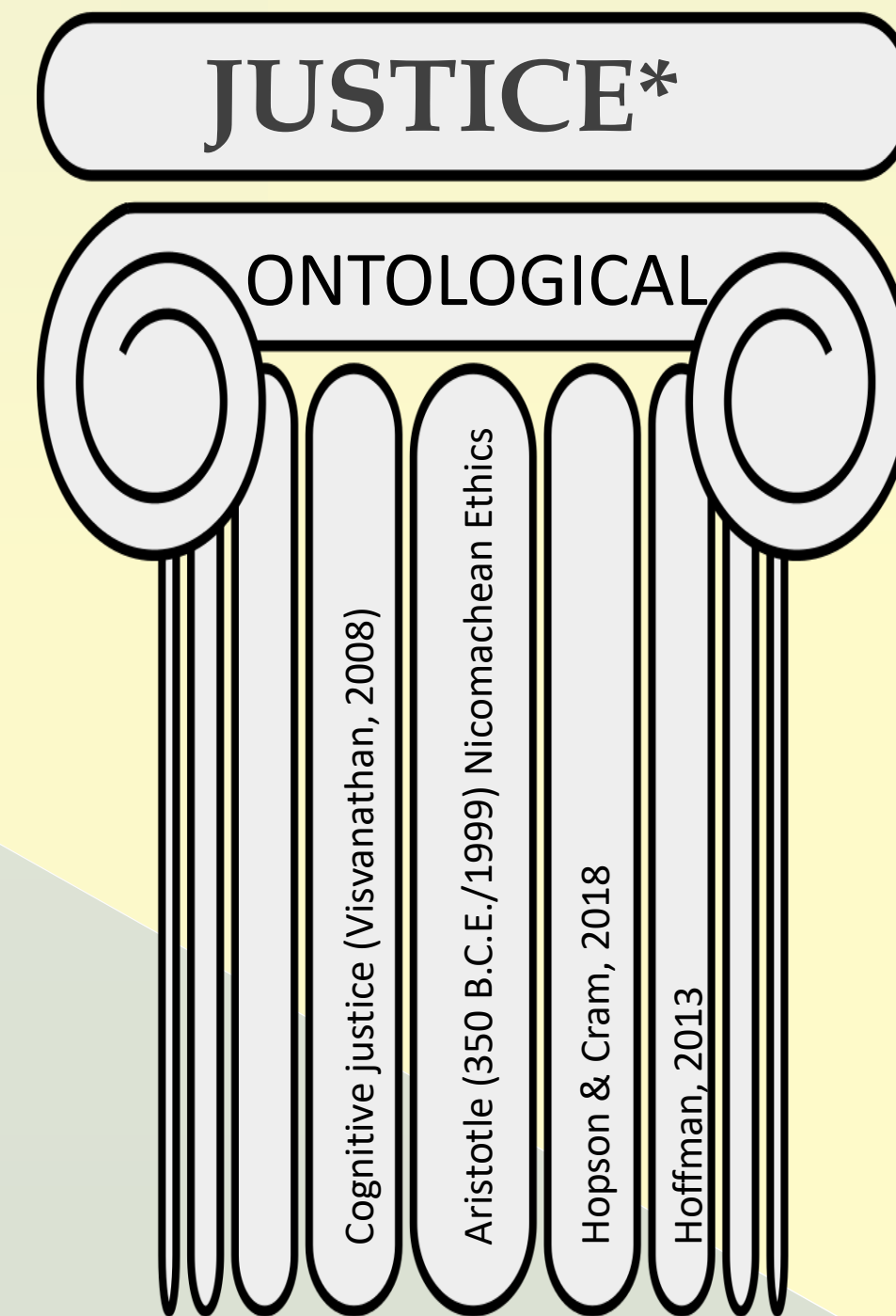


SYNTHESIS*

ONTOLOGICAL

Cultural synthesis (Freire, 1970)

The integration of ontologies such that each is mutually affirmed, challenged, and transformed.

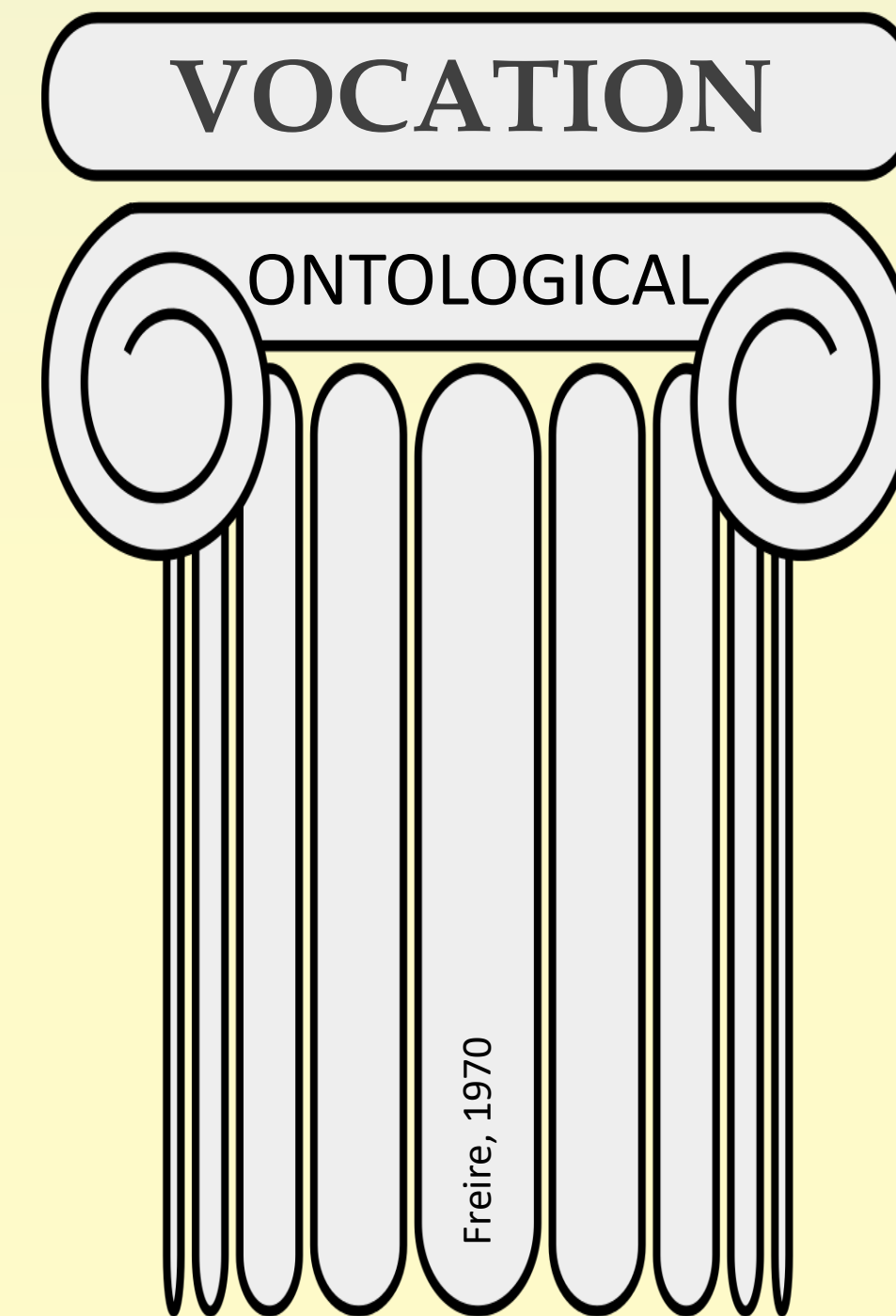


JUSTICE*

ONTOLOGICAL

Cognitive justice (Visvanathan, 2008)
Aristotle (350 B.C.E./1999) Nicomachean Ethics
Hopson & Cram, 2018
Hoffman, 2013

The impartial treatment of differing ontological views such that another's ontology is acknowledged and affirmed and conflicts between ontologies lead to ontological synthesis rather than ontological oppression.



VOCATION

ONTOLOGICAL

Freire, 1970

The act of becoming more fully human through a lifelong commitment to ontological justice.