

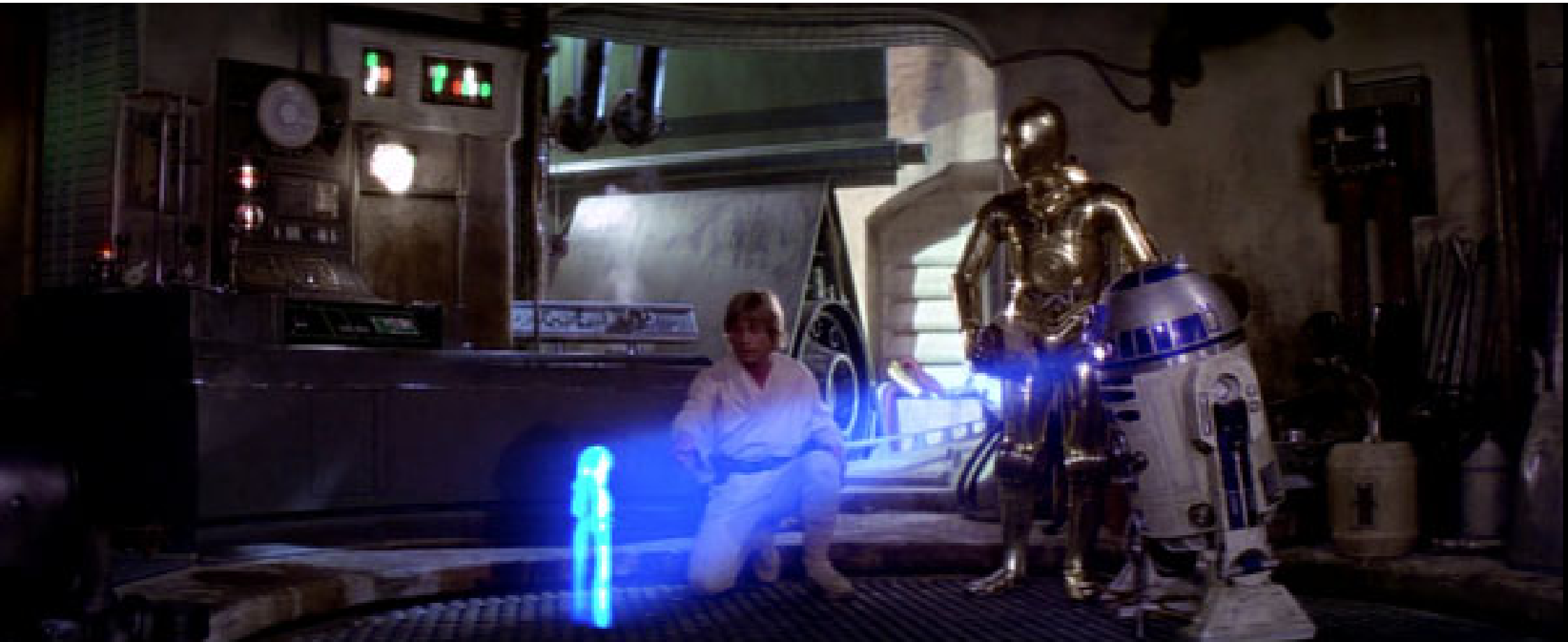
The background of the slide is a dark space filled with numerous stars of various colors, including blue, purple, and white, creating a starry field effect. The text is centered and rendered in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

# **Star Wars Guide TO POSITIVISM**

**COURSE OF PHILOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**Hanh, Jukka, Sakke and Udyant**

**28th September 2022**



**Help me, Obi Wan Kenobi. You're my only hope**

*Princess Leia*  
*Star Wars Episode IV - A New Hope*

## History of Positivism

- Positivism is the name for the scientific study of the social world
- Modern positivism was first articulated in the early 19th century
- Auguste Comte, French philosopher known as the founder of sociology and of positivism
- Positivism emerged to replace Classical German Idealism
- Positivists rejected theoretical speculation as a means of obtaining knowledge.
- Sociology can and should use the same methods and approaches to study the social world that “natural” sciences



**Use the force, Luke**

*Obi Wan Kenobi*  
*Star Wars Episode IV - A New Hope*

# Elements of Positivism

## Positivism Relies on the Following Aspects

1. Science is deterministic
2. Science is mechanistic
3. Science uses method
4. Science deals with empiricism

## Principles of Positivism

1. The unity of the scientific method
2. The aim of science is to explain and predict.
3. Scientific knowledge is testable.
4. Science does not equal common sense.
5. Science should be as value-neutral as possible.
6. Experiments must be able to verify a statement anytime and anywhere



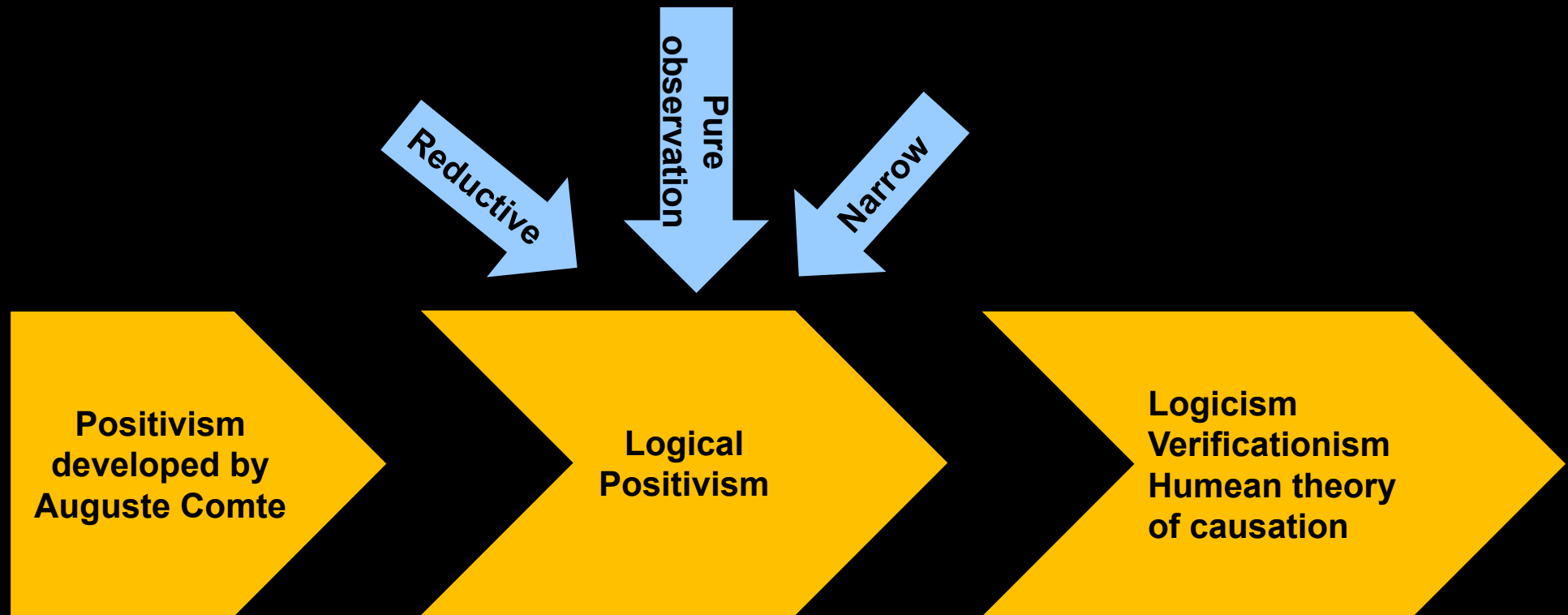
**Now, be brave and don't look back. Don't look back**

*Shmi Skywalker*  
*Star Wars Episode I - The Phantom Menace*

## Variation and internal competition



## Variation and internal competition







**Fear is the path to the Dark side**

*Yoda*

*Star Wars Episode I - The Phantom Menace*

**The greatest teacher, failure is**

*Yoda*

*Star Wars Episode VII - The Last Jedi*

# Criticism And External Competition

## Criticism

- **Early Critique, Hermeneutic School (1900s):** “truth” is relative and does not have a general meaning
- **Phenomenology (1920s):** attempts to understand the subjective, lived experiences and perspectives of people
- **Frankfurt School (1930s):** tried to develop a theory of society that was based on Marxism and Hegelian philosophy
- **Post-positivism (1960s):** rejects the positivist approach that a researcher can be an independent observer of the social world.
- **Postmodernism (1970s):** a late 20th-century movement characterized by broad skepticism, subjectivism, or relativism

# Criticism And External Competition

## External Competition

- **Interpretivism:** Positivists believe society shapes the individual and use quantitative methods, interpretivists believe individuals shape society and use qualitative methods.
- **Postpositivism:** Postpositivism rejects the positivist approach that a researcher can be an independent observer of the social world.

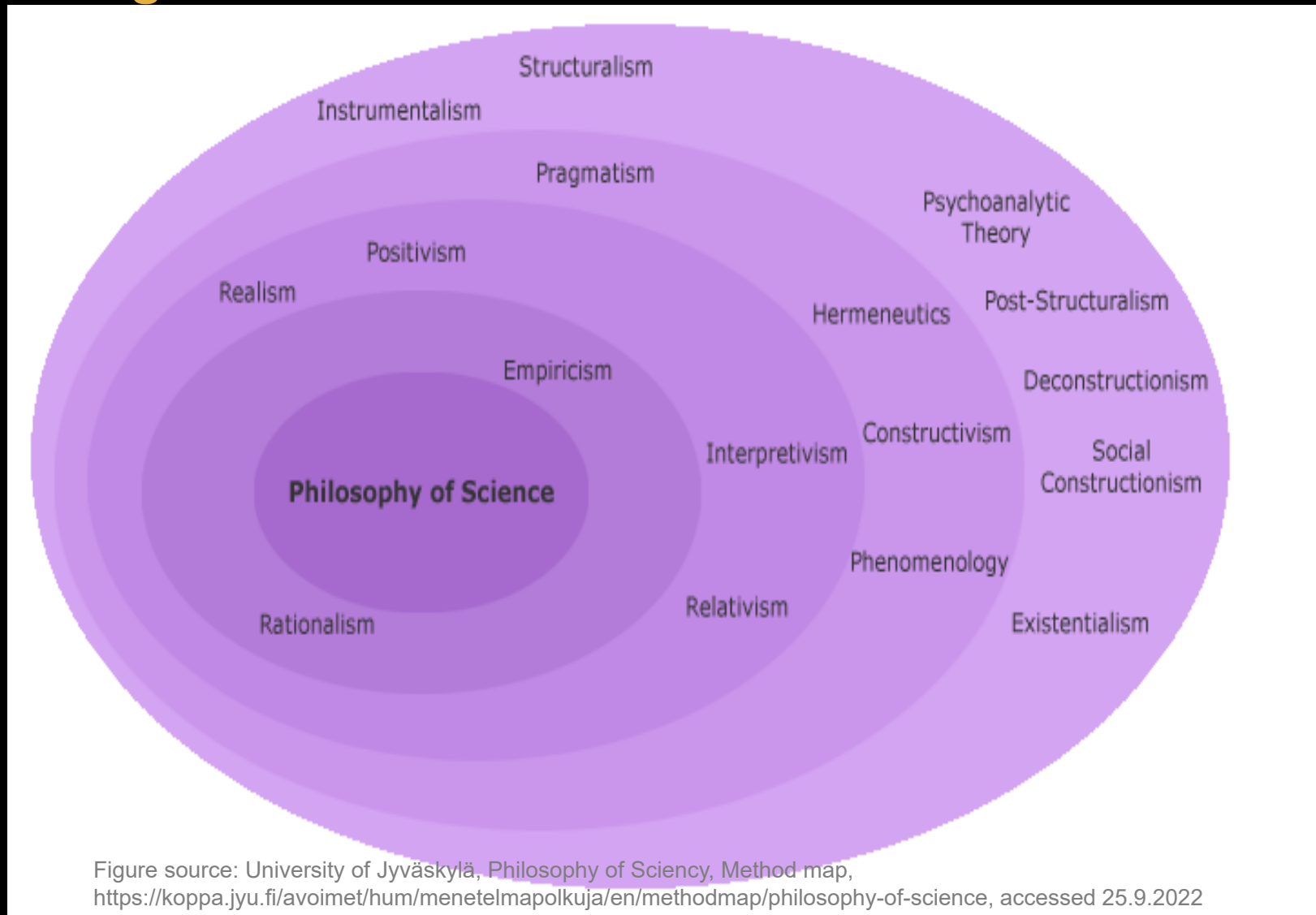


**Always in motion the future is**

*Yoda*

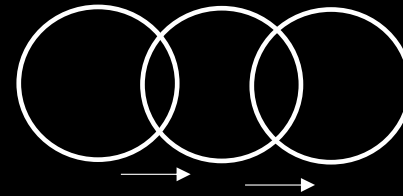
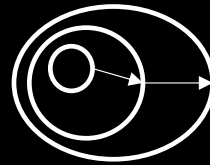
*Star Wars Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back*

# Positivism Big Picture



# Positivism Big Picture

- If Positivism is the answer what was the question?
  - How to get rid of “beliefs”?
- How did positivism succeed in reaching the aim?
  - One world, one science?
  - Is social research driving the societal progress?
  - Value-free (social) research?





A close-up shot of Obi-Wan Kenobi, an elderly man with white hair and a beard, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a light-colored, textured robe. The background is a dark, stone archway with a grid-like pattern and some glowing green lights.

**In my experience there is no such thing as luck**

*Obi Wan Kenobi*  
*Star Wars Episode IV - A New Hope*