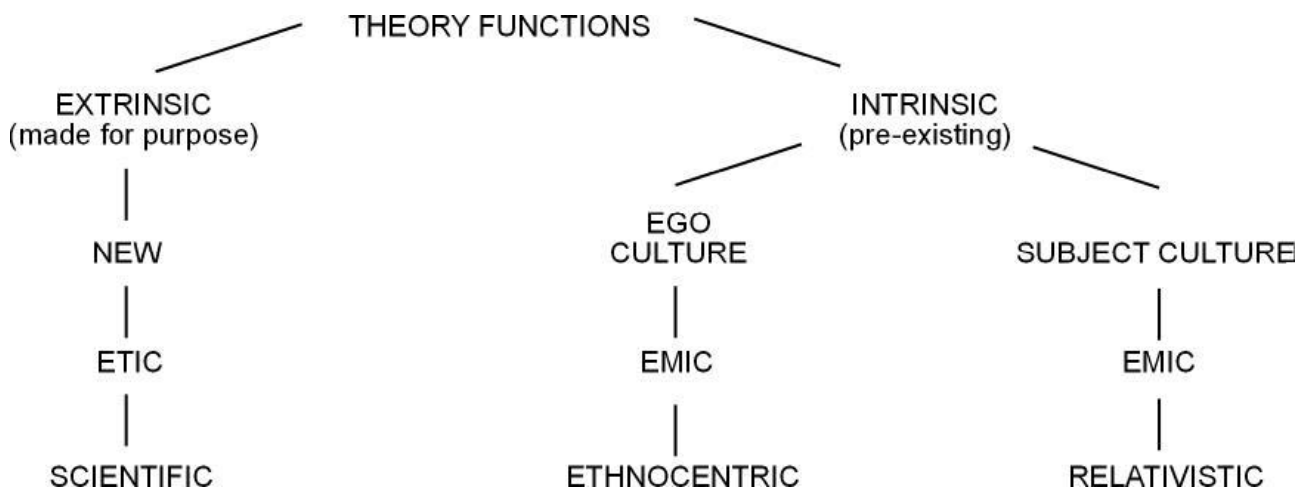


## Theory Functions

All explanation requires some intellectual input, minimally in terms of units of observation and causal relations between units. We can call this input theory, regardless of individual authors' stances on the meaning of that term. Even when there is a claim that explanation requires no input, we know something must perform these minimal functions of theory. The diagram below is a modal statement about the source of theory functions.



In science the input providing theory-functions derives from an explicit set of ideas, typically written down or referable by all. When there is a claim of no theoretical input in explanation, the ethnocentric model is in use. In disciplines like archaeology and anthropology the body of principles typically used to generate explanations combines all three models.