

Zeitschrift: Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Soziologie = Revue suisse de sociologie
= Swiss journal of sociology

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Soziologie

Band: 9 (1983)

Heft: 2

Rubrik: Summaries in English

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 13.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Ethical Problems in Social Science Research: A Prison Case Study

C. Montandon

More and more social scientists are becoming increasingly aware of the ethical problems inherent in their research. Sociological and anthropological associations in Anglo-Saxon countries have set up ethical principles which might serve as professional guidelines. In the USA, a federal regulation was even created for the protection of the human subjects in biomedical and behavior research. This article examines some of the resulting problems as well as the ethical compromises called for in research practice. It further describes the ethical problems which emerged in a study carried out in a prison setting and reveals some of the resulting considerations.

A Review of the Current Status of the Corporatism Debate

H. Kriesi

Starting off with Schmitter's distinction between corporatism and concerted action, the author attempts to clarify the concepts. He further illustrates, with the use of examples, what is to be understood concretely by patterns of reconciliation of corporate interests. In this context, the example of Switzerland has been classified according to the various dimensions of corporatism. Finally, the conditions and consequences of corporate structures and practices are discussed in reference to the debate currently found in the literature.

Structures of the Military-Industrial Complex in Switzerland

B. Fux & E. Nadai

The article summarizes a study conducted by the Sociological Institute at the University of Zurich. In this study, we examined the existence of structures which seem to make the notion of a military-industrial complex plausible. On the one hand we were interested in a theoretical clarification of the concept within a structural and a cultural dimension; on the other hand we were interested in a methodological critique of the ideological usefulness of secondary data.

Within the structural dimension, we explained the complex as a neo-feudalistic crystallization of a subsystem; within the cultural dimension, we defined it as subcultural differentiation. The structural level was examined using a positivistic-oriented research design. In order to comment upon the cultural dimension, we reflected critically upon our own data collection methods in the form of participant observation and attempted to make some generalizations.

The notion of the military-industrial complex proved to be significant. Strong ties among the three postulated subsystems could be shown.

New Psychiatric Technology and the Tradition of Professional Roles in Medicine

L. Verhaegen

Although the current impetus in biological psychiatry and the inclusion of psychiatric wards in general hospitals suggest an increasing medicalization of psychiatry, a study conducted in a university hospital specialized in the area of biological psychiatry showed that psychiatry still retains a unique status.

In diagnostics as well as in treatment itself, the psychiatrist cannot avoid considering factors outside the realm of medicine when making a decision.

The existence of a medical-biological model does not at all imply that other factors may not be considered in the therapeutic process. These social and existential criteria have made psychiatry a complex field of specialization in which both polyvalence and pragmatism are prerequisites. Just as in the past, the multiple demands being made on present day psychiatry can hardly be fulfilled by the practitioner.

Medicalization and Situational Definitions: The Case of Institutions for the Long-term Placement of the Aged

J. Coenen-Huther

All situational definitions are characterized by their relativity and their normative influence on behaviour. The present article illustrates this two-fold proposition in reference to institutionalized care for the aged. Such situations are defined by two categories of actors: the qualified and the non-qualified personnel. The pragmatic definition of the latter expresses itself in mothering tendencies; it stands in contrast to the definition of the qualified personnel which expresses itself in therapeutic behavior. Referring to Parson's paradigm of the sick role and pattern variables, a comparison of the behavior of both groups is made.

Remarks about Age Classification

J. Widmer

The article investigates the relevance and the diffusion of age classification in the structure of the social order. This classification is regarded as a cultural resource. In the first part, the concepts of chronological age and life cycles are formally differentiated. In the second part, the systematic relation-

ship between age and social action is examined. Finally, the emergence of chronological age in modern times and its application in sociology are briefly surveyed.

Factor Analysis of Correspondence in the Social Sciences

F. Lorenzi-Cioldi

This article presents a method of data analysis which is widely spread today: the factor analysis of correspondence. It is written in an intuitive, non-mathematical language since it is geared towards the social scientist who does not have a profound knowledge of statistics, but who intends to perform a multivariate analysis of his data. Following a general description of the method, the most important stages of the analysis are traced and commented upon, from the organization of the data to the introduction of illustrative variables and the interpretation of the findings. It further indicates other possible variations which could be used for evaluating the same set of data.

The Interview as a Sociological Setting

F. Lieberherr

Field work, far from being a schematic conception of picturesque folklore, presents a genuine application of the laboratory setting: during his observations of real life, the researcher tries to reconcile his role as scientist with his role as social actor. As far as the specific technique of interviewing is concerned, it sets the operational conditions for formal distance which allows the construction of objective knowledge. Methodologically, the interview contributes to broadening the procedure of the qualitative observation of reality, comprehensive research and endogenic understanding.

Analogous to medical action, I have defined the interview as a sociological action in which the relationship of researcher-subject develops according to the existing power structures produced by social practice. The

primary responsibility of the researcher: the avoidance of a conquest relationship and academic colonialism which often causes the definitive resistance or falsifying censorship on the part of the subject. Moreover, it also eliminates authoritarian interrogation or an overly confidential questioning. Through a continuous, aware self-analysis, the researcher can engage in a *critical objectivity* and an *active neutrality* which are free from scientific dogmatism, which is illusionary in its absolutism. In this way one dares to create a 'personal equation' of the researcher where the limitations of the research field, the fluctuation of the subject of research, the rationality of the social actors and the whole personality of the researcher adjust to the scientific demands of research.