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# Swiss Journal of Sociology

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Every social unit aware of itself perceives itself as a “special case” (Sonderfall). This is especially meaningful for democratic communities since the acceptance of majority or minority decisions as well as the redistribution of goods requires the social-moral disposition of social affiliation. Social affiliation is bound to a “belief in commonality” (Gemeinsamkeitsglauben; Max Weber) which is brought about by the perception of being a “special case”. The old national-patriotic mainstream historiography along with the more recent national-critical mainstream historiography of the 1970s onwards has, in a large part, ignored this “fait social” (Emile Durkheim). The former celebrated the Swiss “special case” without questioning its ideology while the latter does the opposite and denies its existence. Both views are equally wrong: classic national historiography favours the heroic creation myth whereas the newer anti-national historiography deconstructs it. Both miss out on the momentum as well as on the intrinsic value of the “special case” discourse. It is time to raise more interesting questions. Of particular interest is the understanding that the specific characteristics of a “special case” determine its latter evolution and development (Pfadabhängigkeiten). In other words: awareness of “special cases” grows historically, forged by constant debate in the public arena and leads to “special cases” establishing themselves as “faits sociaux” which in turn engender new social facts.

Keywords: special case, (national) identity, concordance, tradition, models of society

### 225 Switzerland – a Nation-State? [D] | Hanspeter Kriesi

Switzerland exists as a nation-state, but neither the formation of the state, nor the formation of the nation have gone as far in as in comparable countries. Switzerland has remained a “federation of nations” whose union is far from achieved. As a result of its incomplete development towards a nation-state, Switzerland appears to be peculiarly modern and could serve as a model for European integration. For Switzerland itself, however, the traditional model of “unity in plurality” seems no longer able to live up to the contemporary challenges.

Keywords: nation state, federalism, state formation, (national) identity, European integration

### 235 Inventing and Re-Inventing Switzerland: the National Exhibitions of 1939, 1964, and 2002 [F] | Yannis Papadaniel

National exhibitions are habitually taken to constitute cultural forms which aim at increasing citizens’ knowledge of their country. This article critically examines the arguments used by

the organisers of the exhibitions in Switzerland and proposes instead an alternative view of the exhibitions as a sequence of performances staging the Swiss nation. The concept of performance allows the parallel between the different exhibitions and the transformation of the national identifiers in Switzerland.

Keywords: national exhibition, (national) identity, tradition, culture

**253 Eugenics and the Swiss Gender Regime: Women's Bodies and the Struggle Against "Differences" [E] | Véronique Mottier**

This article explores some specificities of the Swiss "gender regime". Whilst acknowledging the obvious fact of the political exclusion of Swiss women, I argue that focusing on this aspect alone provides a partial and overly simplistic picture of the Swiss gender regime and fails to recognize other, more complex ways, in which the social relations of power around gender have operated in the Swiss nation-state. My general argument is, first, that Switzerland provides a historical example of Bauman's "Gardening States": states that are concerned with eliminating the "bad weeds" from the national garden. Second, that the Swiss experiments with eugenics (1920s–1960s) illustrate that women's bodies have been a central site of the Swiss struggle against "differences".

Keywords: eugenics, (national) identity, gender, social inequality

**269 Dynamics of Solidarity: An Analysis of the HIV/Aids in Switzerland Compared to other Chronic Pathologies [F] | Milena Chimienti**

This contribution compares the transformation of the solidarity towards people living with HIV/aids and towards people affected by another similar pathology. From a comparative analysis of the perception of their problems and expectancies of people concerned by HIV/aids, respiratory troubles or depression, our purpose was to reconstruct the dynamics of solidarity regarding these pathologies.

Keywords: HIV/Aids, health, chronic disease, solidarity, discrimination

**291 Connection Between First Marriage and First Childbirth in Switzerland [F] | Yannic Forney**

This paper investigates the link between first marriage and first childbearing in Switzerland. We question more particularly the process of polarization which distinguishes two groups of women. The first group composes a family sector with married women who have at least one child. The second group refers to women alone or possibly living with a partner, without children however. Using longitudinal data from the Swiss Household Panel (SHP), we analyse the risk of marriage and of first birth with the techniques of Event History Analysis. Our findings show that in Switzerland the link between these two events is still strong, leading many women to choose a "traditional" family life. Moreover, the women having a higher education level seem more exposed to a polarized choice compared to those with a lower education level.

Keywords: marriage, family, gender, research method

**311 Differentiation and Social Inequality. An Amendment to Current Debates in Sociology [D] | Thomas Kurtz**

Sociological analysis of society is at present dominated by two macrosociological concepts: the sociology of social inequality and the theory of functional differentiation. The article

questions for the connecting lines between these two concepts and concentrates thereby in particular on the following two categories: at first, occupation, which has been pushed into the background by sociological inequality research and is not considered at all by differentiation theory, and secondly the category organization, which – in both research traditions – is not sufficiently considered. The issue of how for people can be part of society and its subsystems reveals possible convergences between occupation and organisation as well as between differentiation theory and inequality research.

Keywords: social inequality, functional differentiation, profession, organisation, social participation

### 329 Persistent Poverty: A Question of Class, Cumulative Disadvantage or Individualization? [F] | Robin Tillmann and Monica Budowski

The article evaluates the predictive value of three approaches towards poverty: social class, cumulative disadvantage and individualization. Data from the Swiss Household Panel are used. Consistent poverty is defined by low income and deprived living conditions, persistent poverty as being poor at three out of five points of measurement between 1999 and 2003. The individualization approach predicts persistent poverty better than the cumulative disadvantage approach, but is less predictive than social class. In contrast to social class that captures the stable nature of poverty over time, the individualization approach gives an account of its transitory nature. The results suggest that the three approaches do not apply with the same accuracy to gender specific situations.

Keywords: poverty, measurement of poverty, research method, gender

### 349 The Associationist Conception of Society. Some Theoretical Issues [F] | Marc-Henry Soulet

For some time now, many sociological analyses, regardless of their intrinsic diversity, have been emphasising the emergence of a new socio-cultural model distinguished by a normative individualism and by a reticular and associationist conception of society. After reviewing what is causing the emergence of this new interpretation of social cohesion, this article intends to extract the theoretical reasoning and to examine the internal presuppositions. Thus, several classical elements of sociological analysis (the forms of social integration, the status of inequalities, the methods of socialisation, the nature of social control) will be discussed. The current lack of answers to these points within this theoretical conception weakens its acceptance and makes it run the risk of being considered as an ideology of present-day times.

Keywords: modernity, individualisation, individual, society

### 365 Book Reviews

Reihe «**Migration – Beiträge aus Theorie und Praxis**»

**Seismo**

Departement Migration, Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz (Hrsg.)

## **Sans-Papiers in der Schweiz unsichtbar – unverzichtbar**

In der Schweiz leben zwischen 80'000 und 300'000 Menschen ohne Aufenthaltsbewilligung – so genannte Sans-Papiers. Die Ursachen, die zu einem illegalen Aufenthaltsstatus führen, sind vielfältig und so auch die Lebensumstände, in denen diese Menschen hier leben. Die Publikation behandelt aus unterschiedlichen theoretischen Perspektiven die für die Sans-Papiers-Frage in der Schweiz sozial und gesellschaftspolitisch relevanten Themen – u. a. die Grund- und Menschenrechte, die soziale Sicherheit, die Gesundheitsressourcen und -versorgung, die Sans-Papiers-Bewegung sowie den Frauenhandel. Durch die Aufzeichnung einzelner Lebensgeschichten von Sans-Papiers in der Schweiz werden die theoretisch behandelten Themenbereiche auf eindrückliche Weise veranschaulicht. Diese Geschichten erlauben gleichzeitig einen Einblick in unterschiedlichste Facetten der Lebenswirklichkeit von Sans-Papiers. Informationen zu rechtlichen Grundlagen und ein Verzeichnis nützlicher Adressen runden die Publikation ab.

Die Beiträge in diesem Buch stammen von **René Rhinow** (Vorwort), Prof. em. für öffentliches Recht, Universität Basel; **Christin Achermann**, Schweizerisches Forum für Migrations- und Bevölkerungsstudien (SFM) in Neuenburg; **Milena Chimienti**, Schweizerischen Forum für Migrations- und Bevölkerungsstudien (SFM) in Neuenburg; **Franck Düvell**, Centre for Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford; **Jörg Paul Müller** (Prof. em.), derzeit als Emeritus am Forschungsbetrieb des World Trade Institute der Universität Bern beteiligt; **Rachel Nellen-Stucky**, «Erklärung von Bern»; **Simon Röthlisberger**, Institut für Theologie und Ethik ITE des Schweizerischen Evangelischen Kirchenbunds (SEK); **Marianne Schertenleib**, Fachstelle für Frauenhandel und Frauenmigration des Fraueninformationszentrums (FIZ) in Zürich; **Hans Wolff**, Poliklinik der Universitätsklinik Genf und Unité mobile de soins communautaires (Umsco)



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