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# Swiss Journal of Sociology

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Debates in the philosophy of social science often pit lawlike against ideographic approaches to explanation, whilst dividing objective, value-free approaches from critical and engaged stances. Others foreground causal mechanisms as a unit of explanation, though they are equally split about the role of values and normativity. This article engages with these perspectives by elaborating a logics-based approach to critical explanation. By articulating the idea of social, political and fantasmatic logics, the approach emphasizes contextual particularity, yet also aspires to be explanatory and critical. It shows the added value of such an approach by investigating recent changes in the UK higher education regime.

Keywords: Explanation, critique, causal mechanisms, interpretation, universities

- 37    **Integration and Deintegration. Are These Two Sociological Key Concepts Still Reliable Enough for an Efficient Analysis of Contemporary Society? [G] | Klaus Kraemer**

In numerous sociological debates integration is considered as a normative model for a “good society”. On the contrary, deintegration is interpreted as a pathological “deficiency”, which leads to deviations from the normal state of successful integration. But the scientific use of the two terms is far from being satisfactory. This article asks if these two concepts have still the capacity to bring forward the analysis of contemporary society in general and of its problems in particular. At first, the fundamental assumptions of the conventional theory of integration and deintegration are identified in order, in a second step, to discuss their plausibility when applied to three selected problem fields. Finally, the considerations about the workability of the integration paradigm for a sociological analysis of contemporary society is critically verified on the background of the questions of the social transformations of work society and the development of precarious work.

Keywords: integration, desintegration, work society, precarious work, xenophobia

- 55    **Frames and Cities: From the Discourse Order towards Situated Action [F] | Lilian Mathieu**

French-speaking sociology of social movements frequently gathers two different, but rather close, theoretical approaches: the framing perspective inspired by the works of Erving

Goffman, and the model of cities initiated by Luc Boltanski and Laurent Thévenot. The article discusses these two approaches and shows that each of them is exposed to an idealist bias when it is used to analyse the internal discourses of social movements, and that it can only escape this bias by taking into account the concrete situations in which contentious action takes place.

Keywords: social movements, frames, cities, interactionism, pragmatism

## 71 **PhD and Career – Is a Doctoral Degree Worth It? Analyses with the Swiss Graduate Study [G] | Sonja Engelage and Andreas Hadjar**

In the 1980s, during the educational expansion, a debate arose in many European countries concerning the rising number of academics and oversaturation of the academic labour market. Whether or not the occupational success of PhD graduates did actually decrease will be analysed on the basis of the Swiss Graduate Study (1983–2001), also regarding gender and faculty differences. Occupational success includes monetary success (income) and prevention of unemployment as well as subjective success variables, namely subjective perceived adequacy of the job regarding income, development opportunities and job requirements. Results show that a doctoral degree leads to a distinctively higher occupational success than graduates with a first university degree.

Keywords: academic labour market, employment career, PhD/doctoral degree, occupational success, gender

## 95 **The “Broad Thinking” of Craftsmen – How Do Elementary School Teachers Classify Professions? [G] | Lukas Neuhaus**

In the article, four research interviews provide a basis for the reconstruction of typical elements of the classifying practice of female school teachers. When classifying occupations, teachers of elementary school apply two dichotomous principles: the opposition of manual and intellectual work on the one hand and of “narrow” and “broad” thinking on the other hand. In the case of the teachers, the appreciation for handcraft work can be explained as a compensation of the impossibility of adequate causal attribution of pedagogic action. The “narrow thinking” is regarded by the teachers as a symptom of a detrimental specialisation. Both principles are motivated by the fundamental structure of pedagogic action.

Keywords: classification, professions, pedagogic action, image of society, social inequality

## 115 **Knowledge Work Demystified, or How the Factory Enters the Laboratory. A Research Report from the Pharmaceutical Industry [G] | Peter Streckeisen**

Social change is often seen, nowadays, as a transition from industrial to knowledge society. The article takes a critical stance towards this kind of interpretation. The author exposes the main results of his own empirical research on the evolution of laboratory work in the pharmaceutical industry. Growing specialization of laboratory work, laboratory automation, condensation of work prescriptions and the application of project management are seen as resulting of an industrial rationalization process that reaches out, today, to research and development activities (R&D) as well.

Keywords: knowledge society, industrial work, pharmaceuticals industry, automation, project management

**131 Mobility Biography and Network Geography: Whose Social Relations Are Spatially Dispersed? [G] | Timo Ohnmacht, Andreas Frei and Kay W. Axhausen**

This paper addresses the size and structure of egocentric social networks. The theoretical basis lies on sociology of space, mobility studies, and debates on social capital. A structural equation model (SEM) based on representative survey data conducted in the city of Zürich has been applied to investigate whether events of the mobility biography, such as relocations for job and living, years of living at the recent living place, years of education, geography of education and living places, have an effect on the spatial spread of egocentric networks. This study shows that events of the mobility biography have a decent effect on the network geography. The results will be discussed against the background of the theoretical framework.

Keywords: mobility biographies, egocentric social networks, activity space, sociology of space, mobility studies

**165 The Contribution of Public Statistics to Social Invisibility: The Case of Psychic Disability in Switzerland [F] | Cristina Ferreira, Danièle Lanza and Anne Dupanloup**

In Switzerland, in the last years, the high rate of psychic disability cases determines a large part of the debate about increasing financial deficits of the Invalidity Insurance. In this context, public statistics are often used as a political argument to claim reforms and to justify access restrictions to social rights. This article shows how administrative statistical data present, on one hand, psychic disability as a financial risk, and on the other hand, produce social invisibility. Such an effect is a crucial obstacle to a social participation and to a “struggle for recognition”.

Keywords: invalidity insurance, public statistics, psychic disability, social invisibility

**187 Why the Quality of Life in Nursing Homes Is Important, and How It Can Be Measured [G] | Hans-Ulrich Kneubühler and Josef Estermann**

Nursing homes have aspects of total institutions, to which residents must adapt in that they learn to be helpless. Due to this, the measurement of the quality of life in nursing homes using usual instruments measuring the quality of care and the clients' satisfaction is often unreliable and invalid, the residents being treated like consumers or patients. Thus, resignation indicating “successful” learning of helplessness, is taken as positively correlated with the quality of life. Furthermore elderly people with cognitive impairment are excluded from usual surveys.

We have developed an index for the subjective quality of life of nursing home residents (SLQA) consisting of five factors: empathy, autonomy, privacy, security and acceptance. This interview schedule has been tested in sixteen departments of ten different nursing homes (780 residents).

The results show that the schedule can also be used with cognitively impaired residents. It was possible to obtain valid data to calculate SLQA for more than two thirds of the cognitively impaired residents interviewed. It permits a final picture of their well-being, quality of care and the environment. External covariates such as age, sex, degree of dementia and time already spent in the home explain less than 0.05 of the variance of SLQA, indicating independent measuring. The amount of care needed is negatively correlated with the amount of quality of life (Pearson's  $r^2=0.13$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Differences between homes explain at least 20 percent of the variance of SLQA ( $p<0.001$ ,  $PRE=0.28$  when controlled

for the amount of care needed) indicating the dependence of quality of life on the quality of care and environment.

Keywords: quality of life, nursing homes, standardised scales, sociology of health, health research

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