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413 On Our Way Towards Precarisation Society – Analysing Definitional Struggles Around the Increasing Precarisation of Working and Living Conditions | [G]

Oliver Marchart

Starting from two discourse analyses (of the German “Unterschichtendebatte” or “underclass”-debate in the mass media and of the protest discourse of a social movement against precarity) the article describes a symptomatic indecision of the hegemonic notion of precarity: on the one hand the phenomenon of precarity is confined to a relatively small group (an “underclass” or a “disconnected precariat”), on the other hand it is conceded that larger sectors of society are increasingly affected by processes of precarisation. Starting from this observation the article develops a typology of the concepts of precarisation and argues in favour of an encompassing notion of precarisation – differentiated from a confined notion (as in the German “underclass”-debate) as well as from a merely enlarged notion (as in Castel and Dörre). This encompassing understanding of the phenomenon finds support in social theories such as regulation theory, gouvernementality studies, the pragmatic sociology of Boltanski and Chiapello and Italian post-operaism. The comparison of these theories will support the main thesis of the article: that the Western post-fordist social formations can be reasonably characterised as precarisation societies.

Keywords: precarity, exclusion, social movements, discourse analysis, post-operaism.

431 “Pioneers of a New Time”? Identity Constructions in a Social Welfare Programme for Integration | [G] Martina Koch

Social welfare is analysed here as part of the “self-construction industry” (Gubrium/Holstein, 2001). With the onset of activating social policies welfare clients have to meet growing expectations regarding their “selves”. Programmes support their efforts to develop an identity. This article based on ethnographic research questions the method used to establish an identity within a programme for integration run by a social welfare agency. The programme aims at the social integration of long term unemployed through volunteer activities. The article shows how this project constructs the specific “institutional self” (ibid) of a “benefactor”

who as a “good” client is willing to work without a salary. This identity is finally analysed in the context of the activating social policy.

Keywords: institutional selves, cooling out, activation policy, social integration, social welfare

451 Neither Community nor Society: Theorizing the Pluralist Society Beyond Binaries | [F] Elke Winter

The conceptual opposition of communitarian versus non-communitarian elements is an important component of the sociological tradition. In 1887, Ferdinand Tönnies conferred a lasting terminology to this opposition by differentiating between *Gemeinschaft* and *Gesellschaft*. Max Weber breaks with this tradition and develops a “sociology without society” which overcomes the traditional binaries. This article examines the usefulness of Weber’s sociology for a theoretical comprehension of globalized societies. Societies are increasingly ethnically diversified and therefore forced to redefine their national self-image. Following but then going beyond Weber’s terminology, this article develops an ideal-type of the Pluralist Society which can neither be understood as a *Gemeinschaft* nor as a *Gesellschaft*, nor as a lasting synthesis of both. Rather, the pluralist society should be theorized as a triangular social relationship in constant transformation.

Keywords: Community, Society, Max Weber, ethnic pluralism, sociological theory

471 Women’s Concern with Emancipation in Conflict with the Family Ethics. A Study through the Lens of the Relationship to Money in Couples | [F] Laurence Bachmann

This paper explores women’s relationship to money in the household. This relationship is sometimes characterized by bookkeeping procedures or by putting money aside, which conflicts with the family morals. Through an analysis of the meaning women attribute to their money, our study shows that women capable of reflecting on their emancipation analyse their equality and autonomy in regard to their use of money. The particular attitude of women towards money, which is often misunderstood by their male partners, gives rise to moral tensions between their development as subjects and the values associated with the family, such as sharing and selflessness.

Keywords: Gender, money, couple, care for oneself, autonomy.

489 Work-Life-Balance: Individualization and Reproduction of Gender Inequalities | [G] Evéline Huber

Despite the heavily debated individualization of social structures, gender inequalities are steadily reproduced. Up to now, applied researches show the period of starting a family as a particularly critical moment in the reproduction and persistence of social structures. It is considered as revealing of the ambivalent relationship between tradition binding structures and processes of modernization regarding genders. Yet it remains often unclear how such reproductions take place. This research examines how five (married) couples organize their every day life and why certain social structures cannot be transferred into individual patterns of action. These individual processes are analyzed on the basis of the work-life-balance concept and the theory of individualization (by Beck 1986). Through an “apparent” individualization, social and political issues are forced on to the private sphere. Even if equal opportunities are generally assumed and considered as an accepted norm in Switzerland, it shows that individualization is greatly “gendered”. The modernized respectively traditional

civic models turn out to be the (seemingly) most pragmatic ones regarding the division between paid employment and family and domestic work. Thus, the male is still assumed to be the bread-earner. Genuine individualized solutions are still in spare number. The apparent variety of options and space of action may therefore be considered as a remote ideal for most people.

Keywords: Work-Life-Balance, family, work, lifestyle, gender

511 Social Exclusion and Poverty between Theory and Empiricism: Mapping Two Social Science Constructs | [G] Claudia Heinzmann and Manfred Max Bergman

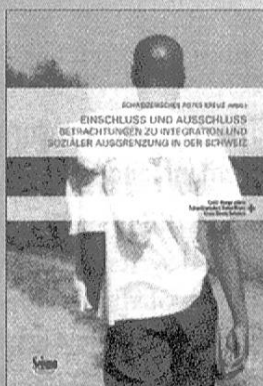
Concepts are adopted into the research process on different levels but, in contrast to theoretical or empirical works, they are rarely examined systematically in the social sciences. In the present study, we analyze the various contents of the concepts “social exclusion” and “poverty”. Based on a comparison of their definitions, indicators, and models, we produce a cartography of both concepts. Our investigations show that although social exclusion is usually understood in contrast to poverty, both concepts share a considerable conceptual space. This article demonstrates this congruence and, in addition, highlights the connection to investigations on poverty in the conception of social exclusion. Concurrently, the subtle changes in the conceptualisation between poverty and social exclusion are discussed in relation to their sociological and sociopolitical implications.

Keywords: Poverty, social exclusion, concept, theory, empiricism

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