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Contents

Participation in Higher Education of Youths with a Migrant Background in Switzerland [E] | Dorit Griga

Drawing on the TREE data set, this study analyses the transition rates of youths who are entitled to enter higher education in Switzerland. Despite the disadvantages encountered in the school system, no disadvantages are revealed for second-generation migrants at this branching point. In contrast, when controlling for social origin and performance, second-generation males originating from former Yugoslavia, Albania/Kosovo, Turkey or Portugal show an increased likelihood to enrol in higher education. In addition, both second-generation males and females originating from these countries more often enter the more prestigious traditional institutions of higher education.

Keywords: Educational inequality, migrant background, higher education, transitions, Switzerland

Why Are Male Care Workers and Female Electricians still Rare? Gender Segregation in the Educational and Vocational Pathways of Young Adults in Switzerland [G] | Karin Schwiter, Sandra Hupka-Brunner, Nina Wehner, Evéline Huber, Shireen Kanji, Andrea Maihofer, and Manfred Max Bergman

Our paper analyses persistence and change of gender inequalities in relation to gender segregation of educational and vocational pathways of young adults in Switzerland. We explore the mechanisms at work in the gendering of educational pathways. We find that young adults with untypical gender pathways have higher than average scholastic abilities and beneficial family backgrounds. However, our data shows that women and men do not profit equally from their gender-untypical pathways. Furthermore, we argue that family plans play a key role for explaining the gendering of educational pathways for both young men and young women.

Keywords: Education, occupation, gender, inequality, mixed methods

The Commodification of Domestic Work — Dynamics of the (De)construction of Gender and the Production of Precariousness [G] | Annegret Wigger and Bettina Brüschweiler

Based on a qualitative analysis of private care arrangements with employed female migrant care workers, we examine the micro level of households. Household dynamics are structured by three intertwined main tasks: doing care, the formal aspects of the employment relation as well as the organization of work. Reconstructions of coping-patterns in the households show a change in the variations of doing gender. Although private care arrangements reflect the worldwide division of labour which reinforce precariousness along the axes of class, gender and ethnicity, this study also shows a contradictory phenomenon on the micro level. Through the employment of female migrants both reinforces and transforms the power balance between men and women.

Keywords: Domestic work, doing gender, gender equality, individual reproduction, precariousness

The Impact of Work Strain on Life Satisfaction When Taking into Account the Cohabiting Partner [G] | Florence Lebert

This paper looks into the impact of the subjectively perceived risk of unemployment and work-life conflicts on life satisfaction. It focuses on the role of the partner. The data of the Swiss Household Panel (SHP) reveal a consistent negative relationship between work strain and life satisfaction, depending also on the partner. The present article broadens our knowledge as it demonstrates that the connection between the perceived risk of unemployment and life satisfaction is even stronger when both partners simultaneously experience work strain. Keywords: Precarious employment, job insecurity, work-life conflicts, life satisfaction, partner

Consumption under Surveillance: The Biopower of Loyalty Programs [F] | Sami Coll

Loyalty cards enable companies to collect data on their customers' habits and to do profiling. To what extent does it threaten their privacy? Privacy is a complex and multidimensional notion, it is therefore difficult to answer this question simply. Besides, privacy is not the most appropriate conceptual tool to face the consequences of a systematic collection of data on a large amount of people. This article, based on an empirical research, develops and explains the main issues of this subject and suggests framing the problem of consumer surveillance through loyalty cards in terms of "biopower."

Keywords: Surveillance, consumption, biopower, loyalty cards, privacy

From Avant-Garde to Personal Advancement: Re-orientation of the Swiss Educational Elite [G] | Ernest Albert

In sociology, two basic concepts of educational elites seem to oppose each other. One of them can be traced back mainly to Karl Mannheim's description of the "free-floating" type of intellectual, who is capable of relating to some kind of utopia and of taking an unselfish avant-garde role in social change. The other basic concept can be traced back mainly to Karl Marx and assumes that educational elite members are primarily interested in their own socioeconomic success and status — and have therefore an anti-utopic orientation. This contribution employs time series data relating to a field of subjective indicators in order to show that the Swiss educational elite has, in the two past decades, generally tended to develop more of an anti-utopic than a utopia interested attitude. The trend is discussed from a perspective beyond the two basic paradigms.

Keywords: Educational elites, social change, value orientations, survey research, Switzerland

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