

Abstracts

Michael Schetsche

Theory of Cryptodoxy. Explorations in the Shadow Zones of Knowledge

Following the differentiation between orthodox and heterodox knowledge, the essay postulates the existence of a within our order of knowledge well hidden shadow knowledge, which in its totality shall be denoted by the newly introduced term of *cryptodoxy*. This cryptodox knowledge is secluded monodirectionally against the valid reality order: From these shadowspheres in the normal case no knowledge is leaking outside. As this shielding also hinders every sociology of knowledge investigation, the existence of such shadow zones can only be verified by exemplary cases, in which the respective bodies of knowledge were part of this cryptodoxy for a while, which however are not anymore today. Subsequent to four, in such a sense necessarily 'historical' examples, two different processes of the development of shadow zones and the resulting forms of cryptodox knowledge are presented: The tabooing and the formation of clandestine patterns of interpretation. They have in common, that the cryptodox knowledge is always prevailing in the modus of the reflexive secret knowledge, which necessitates special mechanisms of knowledge transfer. Such, still quite theoretically oriented discussions refer to an outstanding empirical research program on cryptodoxy from the perspective of the sociology of knowledge. Only its realization will show how sustainable the impulses for a more profound exploration of our reality order – namely its constitutional mechanisms and drawing of boundaries – are, which can be generated by the new sociology of knowledge category.

Philip Wotschack

No Time to Take Time Off. Working Life Time as an Aspect of Social Inequality

Though disposable time forms an important aspect of people's well being and opportunities, it is for a large part neglected in sociological research on inequality. Existing studies show evidence that time constraints are in many respects structured alongside gender and job inequalities. Women and unskilled workers face particular strong risks and disadvantages. It is the leading question of this article, whether life-course oriented approaches to working-time organisation are able to reduce these inequalities by creating better ways for employees to adapt their working time to their changing needs over the life course. Empirical examples of working-life time accounts are used to examine the extent to which women and workers in lower occupational positions are equally able to save up time and realize paid leaves for training, care, and better work-life balance. Based on transaction cost theory hypotheses on the utilization of working-life time accounts are derived. Logistic and linear regression analyses show evidence that working-life time accounts depend on sufficient individual resources with regard to time, income, and employment security. In this respect they rather enhance than diminish existing gender and job inequalities over the life course.

Fabian Kratz

The Influence of Social Background on International Mobility and Job Search Radius of Students and Recent Graduates

Concentrating on social background and former mobility experiences, determinants of the international mobility of students and recent graduates are defined drawing on the microeco-

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nomie human capital model. The logistic regression analyses are based on data of the Bavarian Graduate Survey. Results imply that international mobility both during the studies and upon entrance into the labor market is significantly influenced by the social background. In addition to this direct effect, the higher likelihood of students and recent graduates with a favorable social background to experience mobility in early stages also increases their propensity to go abroad again. Furthermore, an ordinal logistic regression analysis shows that the same is true for the radius considered when searching for a job. Based on these empirical results and search theoretic arguments it is subsequently argued that the social selectivity of international experiences contributes to the reproduction of inequality in the field of the highly qualified.

Ivar Krumpal and Anatol-Fiete Näher

Determinants of Social Desirability Bias: An Experimental Online Study on the Impact of Forgiving Wording and Question Context in Sensitive Surveys

Survey data is prone to error which could result from different sources. One important source of error, more specifically of *bias*, is deliberate misreporting on sensitive questions due to *social desirability concerns*. The article presents theoretical explanations of social desirability bias and discusses methods to reduce social desirability bias in sensitive surveys. Literature on empirical social research often recommends either positive 'loading' of sensitive questions, e.g. using '*forgiving*' wording, or choosing a *permissive question context* to encourage interviewees to answer more honestly. However, only few attempts to systematically evaluate the effectiveness of these recommendations can be found in the experimental literature. Based on *theories of cognitive dissonance*, we derive explanations how manipulations of question wording and context could elicit more socially undesirable answers in sensitive surveys. In an *experimental survey* (4 randomized groups, online data collection with access-panel, n=1176), we evaluate the effects of (1) 'forgiving'-wording and (2) question context on social desirability bias in different sensitive questions. The empirical evidence on the assumed social desirability bias-reducing effect of 'forgiving' wording and permissive question context shows mixed results. Alternative explanations of social desirability bias are discussed and empirically tested. We show that the *perceived social norm* has the strongest and most consistent effect on respondents' willingness to self-report socially undesirable behavior.