

Abstracts

Ludgera Vogt and Matthias Bandtel

New Potentials – New Contingencies. Political Actors' Presentation of Self in Comedy Shows on German Television

In recent years, the media landscape in Germany has yielded a new genre that makes an impact on common forms of political communication: television programs which combine elements of traditional talkshows, satire, comedy, and gameshows. During the national election campaigns in 2013, programs like *heute-show* (ZDF), *Pelzig hält sich* (ZDF), *Stuckrad-Barre* (Tele 5), *Absolute Mehrheit* (Pro7), *Circus Halligalli* (Pro7), and *tv total* (Pro7) gained significantly in importance. This article presents the key findings of a qualitative research project. *Problem Centered Interviews* with politicians, the presenters, authors, and producers of popular satire programs serve to reconstruct political and media actors' different and partly conflicting logics of action. Hence, the heterogeneous forms of satire on German television are systemized from the perspective of the field. Additionally, the results indicate how political actors perceive the potentials and risks of appearances in political comedy shows. Different strategies of *impression management* are identified which politicians hold to be successful in dealing with contingent interactions.

Nils B. Heyen

Towards a technocratic biomedicine? Empirical insights into a medical genetic practice

It is a widespread assumption also within German-speaking social sciences that the geneticization of medicine directly leads to a biomedicine which is completely ruled by technology and has lost sight of the individual human being. For instance, it is argued that the patient would be more and more reduced to his "biomass" and the doctor's role would come closer and closer to the role of a "health engineer" or "biocrat". This paper deals with those observations or concerns and aims to show on the basis of a comprehensive qualitative study on the predictive genetic diagnostics and counseling practice in Germany that the image of a technocratic biomedicine rather distorts reality because the medical genetic doctors act not at all in a technocratic manner. Following an approach of sociology of professions, technocratic action here means (in terms of general action structures) the opposite of professional medical action. However, the analysis of recorded genetic counseling sessions and interviews with professionals also uncovers the existing entry points of technocratization. It becomes obvious that a technocratic medical practice would not be an immediate effect of genetic knowledge or biomedical technologies but the expression of a (always possible) technocratic handling of the new technologies by the medical genetic doctors. Whether the geneticization of medicine leads to a technocratic biomedicine or conversely to a sort of professionalized consulting medicine therefore remains to be seen

Patrick Fick

Why do the second and third migrant generation refrain from becoming naturalized? The impact of transnational ties within the context of the German nationality

As a result of the formerly restrictive German nationality law, the second and third migrant generation is often not naturalized in spite of the existing liberal naturalization regime. The paper explores the relationship between various transnational ties (travel, remittances, identification, real estate property) with the country of origin and the absence from naturalization. The analyses are based on a survey of the most important migrant groups in Baden-Württemberg, where also members of the third generation were interviewed followed by an elaborate screening process. One of the results show that not only does a significant proportion of the second and third generation continue to maintain various transnational ties but there is evidence that the quality of such relationships hardly decrease. In the analysis of the relationship between the absence from naturalization and transnational ties it is shown that each of these ties are related to a different extent to non-naturalization while group-specific differences in the effects occur. Therefore it is argued, that a more nuanced perspective of transnationalism is necessary, which questions the mechanisms of transnational ties for integration.

Theresa Koloma Beck

Violence | Space. Recent debates and their contribution towards spatialising the sociology of violence

This article discusses the relevance of »space« for the sociology of violence. The interest in the relation between violence and social spaces has been growing in recent years. But although being based on the conceptual and methodological innovations in violence sociology since the 1990s, these discussions have taken place mainly in other disciplines. Employing notions such as »spaces of violence« (»Gewalträume«) or »ungoverned spaces« history and human geography in particular have turned to the topic, which in the sociology of violence and conflict does not yet play a prominent role. The process of globalisation, however, leads to a multiplication of spatial references of (political) violence, raising the questions how these dynamics can be methodologically and theoretically captured. This contribution reviews researches analysing the relation between violence and space or place, identifying three main strands of discussion and reconstructing the different conceptualisations of (social) space within them. In a second step the implications and perspectives for violence sociology will be discussed. It will be argued that the latter would profit most by taking up works in which space is conceptualised not as a arrangement or order, but as an object of bodily and sensory experience.