

Abstracts

Manfred Stock

Higher Education and the Distinction between Elite and Mass Education. Elite Education Programs in German Higher Education

German higher education was considered to be elite education until the Second World War. Yet afterwards its character changed and through its expansion higher education transformed into mass education. Since the late 1990s developments have been taking place that intend to implement a differentiation between „elite“ and „regular“ education within the German higher education sector. This paper analyses so-called „elite study programs“ and „intensive study programs“ and examines the normative orientations implied by these programs.

Thess Schönholzer

Who Commutes in a Dual Earner Household? Spatial Mobility and the Evaluation of Fairness

Within dual earner households women and men often experience mobility conflicts if one person intends to change workplace that appears distantly located. In effect a typical dilemma arises: Is the common household going to move or should the one who changed workplace commute? Using action theory, this paper analyses such a situation by examining two people with similar bargaining power. The dilemma – so the theoretical claim – can only be solved if one of the two partners steps back from his or her preferences of mobility. The reasons for stepping back are closely related to social norms. Using a factorial survey we identified the active norms the partners used to solve the mobility dilemma. Probands evaluated the fairness of different mobility solutions. It was found that test subjects did not tend to evaluate these potential changes along traditional societal means. But if there are little children in the household men and woman evaluate according to the social norm that childcare is women's work and it is unfair if women should bear the cost of commuting.

Joël Berger

Altruistic Reciprocity. Empirical Evidence from Sequential Dictator Games and Sequential Taking Games among 11-Year-Old Children

The emergence of social order (e.g. cooperation) is central to sociological thought. Although the creation of a system of cooperation is possible in a group of rational and selfish actors, recent experimental evidence supports the classical sociological view that an internalized norm of reciprocity contributes to the maintenance of social order. When sharing goods, subjects behave reciprocally even when no strategic advantage can be gained. This article presents findings from an experimental study testing whether reciprocity norms exist among eleven-year old primary school children in sequential dictator games as well as sequential taking games. Player 2 generally reciprocates player 1's friendly behavior even when there are no repercussions for ignoring players 1's overture, and taking the full available reward. This finding supports the thesis that altruistic reciprocity contributes to the stability of social relations.

Definitions and Typologies of Populism

Populism has engendered intense debates due to the threat it may pose to representative democracies. The purpose of this article is to examine and evaluate the scientific meaning of populism that avoids a 'policy style' of analysis. After a brief overview of older approaches of populism, the paper presents a critical discussion of current typologies of populism. Three different definitions of populism are examined: Populism as 1) ideology, 2) political power strategy, and 3) discursive practice. It is argued that generic definitions of populism are either too abstract or focus mainly on Latin American cases. Research on populism is mainly limited to political party analysis whereas this paper draws upon the research of charismatic leadership and elites. Finally, it suggests hermeneutical approaches for a populism research agenda.