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# Swiss Journal of Sociology

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461 Weber's Principles of Value-Freedom and the Commitments of Sociologists [G] | Daiva Döring and Clemens Sedmak

The article explores Weber's concept of "value freedom" and calls for a revision of the standard ways to reconstruct Weber's famous principle(s). Four methodological principles of value freedom in connection with empirical social sciences are pointed out on the basis of Weber's writings. In this way, Weber gave a methodological foundation to sociology. He also believed that this commitment would protect science from being misused by ideologies and politics. The authors argue that scientific research at present needs universal moral values, apart from internal scientific values, in order to prevent that scientific results be manipulated by (political, religious, etc.) ideologies. The declaration of a universal human well-being as the supreme goal of science could fulfill this need. The ethical code of sociology is a testimony of a consensus among sociologists about their main commitments. The ASA ethical code proves that a consensus is obtainable among sociologists about universal moral values considered as priorities in their scientific activity.

Keywords: Value-freedom, ethics of science, Code of Ethics, value of science, universal norms.

487 Towards a Boundless Opening of Science? Irritations in Research Unleashed by Media [G] | Cristina Besio and Luca Morici

This contribution shows how science may exploit proposals coming from the media, preserving at the same time its specificity. This is explained by two examples: prominence as a substitute for reputation, and science funding. While the formulation of the problems and the application of truth values must meet scientific standards, the media play a major role in deciding which structures, available for science, are activated each time. Their relevance is evident in the preference for some research areas, in the choice of some specific kinds of research and even in the choice of the theories and methods to be used.

Keywords: Media and scientific research, media effects, popularization of science, media prominence, science funding.

- 507 **Can One Be a Woman Surgeon without Being a Woman? Can One Be a Woman Agriculturist without Being a Man?** [F] | Fabienne Malbois and Magdalena Rosende

This article is an attempt to reformulate the issue of sexual division of work. Despite an obvious constructivist point of view, most of the studies in this area, which highlight the sex-typing of work, keep thinking of sex difference as if gender were the social construction of a biological sex. In order to get rid of the idea of sex as the ground for gender, we suggest to view work as an institution which produces gender. Giving the examples of both female surgeons and female producing, we show how work is mobilized as a resource for agriculturists gender. From this perspective on gender, we tackle the issue of sexual division of work by asking the following question: How is the sex differentiation (re)produced?

Keywords: gender, sexual division of work, medicine, agriculture, feminist theory.

- 523 **Expert Rule versus Popular Protest in the European Context: Social Transactions about the Defence of Cross-border Workers in Europe** [E] | Philippe Hamman

This paper proposes with an analysis of cross-border work in the European Union based on the concept of *social transactions*. Faced with specific constraints as a result of the gap between national legislations, cross-border workers' committees rely on European standards and institutions as opportunities for the juridical protection of their members. This secant position between dissimilar universes justifies the necessity to keep investigating the current notion of multilevel governance by questioning the plurality of social transactions that occur between expert rules and popular protests, implying clashes of interests, conflicts of values as well as cultural dynamics.

Keywords: cross-border workers, governance, social transactions, Europeanization, interest groups.

- 547 **Explaining Islamophobia. A Test of four Theories Based on the Case of a Swiss City** [E] | Jörg Stolz

This article investigates Islamophobia drawing on data from a representative, quantitative survey in a large Swiss city. A new definition of Islamophobia is proposed, as well as practical solutions to frequent epistemological problems. Using descriptive statistical methods the importance of islamophobia is assessed, comparing it to various other out-group phobias. Furthermore, it is shown that islamophobia is very strongly correlated to general xenophobia. Theories which claim that islamophobia is explained by frustration, influence of the media or personal contact are not corroborated by the data. On the other hand, it is found that islamophobia can be accounted for by a traditionalist world-view which in turn is caused by rapid social change.

Keywords: Islam, islamophobia, prejudice, stereotype, racism.

- 567 **Social Relations instead of Altruistic Punishment. Comments on Ernst Fehr's Altruism Research** [G] | Anton Leist

Experimental economists have been trying for some time to discover the laws of behaviour in micro-social situations. Fehr's experimental research on altruistic behaviour attempts to correct the egoistic version of the concept of *homo oeconomicus* by resorting to the notion

of altruistic dispositions. This article discusses Fehr's results from two points of view, namely in regard to the conception of social acting that is associated with altruism, and in regard to the research strategy associated with the laboratory method. The author argues that Fehr's concept of altruism distorts the representation of social acting and that, due to a lack of clarity concerning the motives of action, Fehr's empirical results pertain to phenomena of social recognition rather than to altruism. The charge against the research strategy is that it makes visible only local phenomena within the far wider field of general social conditions. Therefore, this approach presupposes more than it can explain.

Keywords: experimental economics, homo oeconomicus, egoism, altruism, social recognition.

583 **Considering Europe as a Mnemotop. Cultural Tourism and the Construction of an European Identity [G] | Peter Gostmann and Gerhard Wagner**

Since decades both the European Union and the Council of Europe are involved in framing European identity, in particular by contriving programmes for cultural tourists. So far there hasn't been any inquiry about the conceptual relevance and the effectiveness of these programmes. This article's intent is to catch up on this first by contextualizing theoretically the relationship between collective identity, culture, and tourism. Then this theory is confronted to the current programmes of cultural tourism performed by the European Union and the Council of Europe. Finally the design of a research is proposed, which would allow an empirical analysis of the influence of these programs on the building up of a European identity.

Keywords: Europe, identity, transnational space, cultural memory, cultural tourism.

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