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5 Editorial [G] | Beat Fux

7 Theorization, Construction and Validation of a Social Stratification Scale: Cambridge Social Interaction and Stratification Scale (CAMSIS) for Switzerland [E] | Manfred Max Bergman, Paul Lambert, Kenneth Prandy und Dominique Joye

This text presents theoretical and methodological aspects of the Cambridge Social Interaction and Stratification Scale (CAMSIS) for Switzerland. The authors argue that CAMSIS provides an important theoretical alternative to more conventional class-based schemas. The authors constructed the scale from the 1990 Swiss Census using Correspondence Analysis. It was then validated by various computational techniques, notably Leo Goodman's RC-II Association Models. The Swiss Household Panel was used as a basis to establish predictive validity. Specific issues relating to the computation of the scale and its validation are presented, as are suggestions for the scale's application in the social and political sciences for Switzerland and other countries.

27 The Use of Abstract Knowledge in Professional Competition: A Study on the Swiss Market for Professional Environmental Services [E] | Harald A. Mieg

According to Abbott (1988), abstraction is a driver for competition between professions. By exploiting abstract knowledge, professions can claim competence for specific tasks (e. g. biology in genetic consultancy) and come into conflict with similar claims by other professions (e. g. medicine). This article examines the relationship between abstraction and professional competition, using data on professional activities from a survey on the Swiss market for environmental services (406 professionals). As hypothesized, inter-professional competition co-varies with abstraction in the form of problemreduction (defining a task from a particular professional perspective). Secondly, intra-professional competition co-varies with abstraction in the form of standardization.

47 Testing Classical Conflict Theory. Determinants of the Intensity and Violence of Social Conflicts [G] | Jörg Rösset

Conflict theory, which developed in reaction to the assumptions on consensus and integration in structural functionalism, could not establish itself in Europe as a sociological paradigm. However, social conflicts became a central topic of sociological specialties,

which – in contrast to the conflict theories developed by Coser and Dahrendorf – neglect the attributes, developmental forms, and consequences of conflicts. A study on the intensity and violence of strikes shows that several of the determinants of conflict development emphasized by Coser and Dahrendorf are of empirical relevance, especially conflict goals and the institutional regulation of conflicts. However, conflict theorists have underestimated the importance of resource mobilization, so that their theories have to be developed further.

69 **Is Reciprocity Possible? Claude Lévi-Strauss and Marshall Sahlins' Critique of Marcel Mauss. The Actualization of an old Debate [F] | Christian Papilloud**

The article compares the theoretical propositions of Mauss in *The Gift* with statements from Lévi-Strauss and Sahlins. The author argues that today social scientists have little substantial theoretical framework at their disposal for understanding the conditions of reciprocity in social relationship in everyday life. This will make it hardly possible to develop a social theory genuinely free of a concept of "society" as an a priori entity or else as an a posteriori (re-)construction of the actors' logic. The article provides a critical assessment of this problem and encourages further thinking especially about the conditions of a possible reciprocity and, further on, of a possible "society".

89 **Aspects of Modernity in Premodern Japan? The General Validity of Anthony Giddens' Theory of Modernization [G] | Max Pechmann**

Can theories of modernization explain the development of Japanese society? Theorists of modernization argue that modernity arose in Western societies and was transferred to all non-European societies by "expansion" of Western culture. This hypothesis is checked by an examination of premodern Japanese society. The analysis is based on the question of whether there existed aspects of modernity in Japan before any contact with Western society took place. Special emphasis is laid on the theory of modernization of Anthony Giddens.

105 **Quasi-ideal System of Signs and Perspectivity. The Intersubjective Constitution of Linguistic Sign Systems in Thomas Luckmann's Proto-sociology [G] | Norbert Schöer**

A part of Thomas Luckmann's Sociology of Language stands at the center of this article. His constitutional analysis of linguistic systems is explored at length. Following a detailed description, it is suggested that Luckmann's constitutional analysis supports structuralist theories of language and communication and that, in addition, he proposes an approach able to overcome the front between structuralist semantic theories of language and pragmatic theories of communication. But both are only possible because Luckmann marginalizes the problem of perspectivity as a constitutive element of experience in the process of creating sign systems.

119 **The Dynamics of Social Processes – Fertility Behavior during the East German Process of Transformation [G] | Yasemin Niephaus**

This article provides an analysis of the decline of fertility rates in East Germany in the early 1990s. The underlying argument is that the decline of fertility rates cannot be explained

as part of a process in which East German women adjust their fertility behavior to that of West German women. Instead, they are trying to act according to their own orientations concerning female life courses.

- 139 Warum die junge Frau den Mann verlässt oder die Wichtigkeit von Replikationen in der empirischen Forschung  
Kommentar zu « Divorcer en Suisse: Effets des facteurs individuels, de mise en couple et de couple », in SZfS 27/2 [D] | Kurt Schmidheiny
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