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Abstract

One of the most substantial trends in recent social research of the economy is represented by a conceptual change: emphasis gradually shifts from «economic action», «practices» and «institutions» towards «economic knowledge». This does by no means entail that economic behavior should be purged away from social studies of economy, but rather calls for taking into account the close interrelation between knowledge and agency. The importance of the analysis of economic knowledge as a key to understanding both institutional dynamics and purposive action has been repeatedly stressed by two influential figures in the social studies of the economy — Karl Polanyi and Michel Foucault, but unfortunately disregarded by the majority of their successors. This paper aims at exploring theories of economic knowledge suggested by two great thinkers, but also at synthesizing some crucial theoretical insights attained in the heterogeneous yet consolidating field of the studies of economic knowledge. The main challenge to be tackled is applying the theory of economic knowledge to explaining the shifting boundary of the economic.

Keywords: economic knowledge; Karl Polanyi; Michel Foucault; homo economicus; performativity of economics; boundary of the economic.

New Translations

Talcott Parsons, Neil Smelser

Economy and Society (translated by <i>Mariya Dobryakova</i>).....	33
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Abstract

The research perspective of «economy and society», renamed later into «old economic sociology», is associated with several icons of sociology, but first and foremost, — with Talcott Parsons and Neil Smelser. In their book with the same title «Economy and Society» the authors made an attempt to analyze the nature of disciplinary boundaries between economics and sociology from the standpoint of system theory. They claimed economic theory to be a special case of general theory of social systems and reinterpreted main economic categories as categories of the social system. We offer you final conclusions from this book.

Keywords: economic theory; theory of social systems; general theory of action; economy as a social system.

Insight from the Regions

Mikhail Sokolov

Labor Markets, Stratification and Careers in Soviet Sociology..... 37

Abstract

The article is focused on the history of emergence and organization of academic markets of sociological profession in the late USSR. It starts with a description of niches occupied by the new professional specialization in soviet academic «ecologies» (Andrew Abbott) and conflicts inherent to this division of labor. Major sub-specializations and characteristics of their representatives are analyzed. The role of political patronage imposed by the philosophy-and-party bosses is discussed. Finally, the mechanics of academic statuses and professional contracts distribution is laid out.

Keywords: history of Soviet sociology; sociology of science; sociology of professions.

Debate Studies

Anastasiya Lollo

Discourse of a Glossy Magazine: Socio-Communicative Aspects..... 73

Abstract

The paper offers an insight on a subject of contemporary consumption discourse — women's glossy magazine. Discourse analysis of the *Cosmopolitan's* articles reveals specific linguistic means and substantive patterns that serve to construct the collective lifestyle.

Keywords: discourse analysis; consumption; glossy magazine; lifestyles.

Professional Reviews

Valeriya Volkova, Denis Strebkov

The Sociology of Gambling: Review 93

Abstract

The article presents a review of literature in sociology of gambling. It focuses on the role played by the gambling in the lives of individuals and society. Classification of motives and typologies of gamblers are summarized along with the social and cultural underpinnings of gambling development and diffusion in contemporary societies. Special attention is paid to the state regulation of gambling in different countries, which became a subject of special interest since the federal law that banned gambling business in Russia came into force in 2009.

Keywords: gambling; gambling behavior; typology of gamblers; risky activity; state regulation of gambling business.

New Books

Svetlana Barsukova

Natural Resource-based Economy and Estate Rent: Simon Kordonskij's Perspective

A Book Review: Kordonskij S. G. 2008. *Estate Structure of Post-Soviet Russia*.

[*Soslovnaya struktura postsovetskoj Rossii*] Moscow: Institute of «Public Opinion» Fund..... 112

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Maksim Markin

Third Summer School of the Laboratory for Studies in Economic Sociology

at the National Research University «Higher School of Economics» (HSE)

«Russian Economic Sociology: Problems and Strategies of Internationalization»,

July 6–11, 2011, Zvenigorod, Moscow region, Russia..... 139

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