

NORMS, VALUES AND NORMATIVE ARGUMENTATION

PhD-course in Paris 5th and 6th of January 2012.

Revised program 16/12-2011.

The Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo in cooperation with Norwegian University Centre in Paris, offers a course for PhD and postdoc students, taking place in Paris in early January, Thursday 5th and Friday 6th 2012.

The seminar will be organized with two lectures before lunch (from 10-13) each day, presentation and discussion of papers from participants after lunch (from 14.30 to 18). The course is open for 15 PhD-students/post docs. Deadline for application: December 1st 2011. For practical information, see below.

1. Lectures

Jon Elster (College de France, Columbia University):

The normative theory of collective decision-making.

Abstract: Normative theories of collective decision-making usually focus on choosing procedures that are likely to produce good outcomes. I shall argue that the idea of good outcomes is too indeterminate. Instead I propose (following Bentham) to focus on good procedures, not for the purpose of tracking good outcomes (perfect or imperfect procedural justice), but with the aim of removing distorting influences - interest, passion, prejudice and bias - from the decision-making process. The main tools for achieving this aim include publicity, secrecy, and ignorance. These ideas will be illustrated with examples from juries, assemblies, and elections.

Hans Joas (Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, and University of Chicago):

What is affirmative genealogy? How we should reconstruct processes of the emergence of values.

Abstract: Based on the central thesis of my book "The Genesis of Values" (German: 1997, English: 2000), namely that value commitments emerge in processes of self-transcendence, I have recently published a book – *Die Sakralität der Person* - that applies this basic assumption to a specific value complex, namely human rights. The book interprets the history of human rights, following Durkheim, as a process of the sacralization of the "person". My talk will be based on the methodological chapter in that book (chapter 4) and present, in six steps, an argument on how a historico-sociological reconstruction of the process of the emergence of values has to proceed.

Ragnvald Kalleberg (University of Oslo):

Sociology as a constative, critical and constructive discipline.

Abstract: In this lecture I follow up some themes from my contribution to the *Festschrift* for Raymond Boudon (see Kalleberg 2009). Sociology and other social sciences are not only descriptive and explanatory disciplines, but should also be developed and cultivated as normative and evaluative ones. A normative turn in

social sciences during the last 30-40 years, developed by contributors such as Rawls, Habermas, Sen and Boudon, has produced convincing arguments for rationality in normative argumentation in daily life and in science. What can it mean in more concrete terms that the social sciences are normative disciplines? I shall argue for two main consequences: that they have a critical task (evaluate existing social realities) and a constructive task (answering research questions about desirable and feasible alternatives to existing realities).

Gianluca Manzo (Research Fellow, CNRS – GEMASS, Reader University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV)).

Notes on Boudon's Conception of Analytical Sociology.

Due to health problems Raymond Boudon (Institut de France, Académie des sciences morales et politiques) can not give his lecture as planned. But all participants get his paper to read before we meet in Paris: 'Analytical sociology' and the explanation of (representational and normative) beliefs. Boudon's abstract of the paper: "The sociological works considered as genuine scientific achievements follow three rules common to all scientific disciplines. They are at the root of the sociological paradigm becoming popular today under the label "analytical sociology". These rules are crucial notably as far as the sociological explanation of beliefs, both representational and normative, is concerned, as examples drawn from the work of classical and modern social scientists will illustrate."

Manzo discusses the paper, giving a lecture on Boudon's conception of analytical sociology. (Participants have in addition to Boudon's paper also received two of Manzo's recent articles on the subject.)

Elster and Kalleberg will lecture on Thursday. Elster in the first session (10 – 11.20, Kalleberg in the second (11.40-13).

Manzo and Joas lecture on Friday. Manzo in the first session (10-11.20), Joas in the second (11.40-13).

Elster will comment papers on Thursday afternoon, Joas and Manzo on Friday afternoon, Kalleberg both days.

2. General theme and readings.

The general topic of the workshop is about the nature of norms and values in culture and society, the creation and development of values and norms, and normative argumentation in science. One of the subtopics is the discussion of the (ir)rationality of normative argumentation in society and science ("cognitivism" and "non-cognitivism" in relation to norms and value judgments).

Reading list for participants. (It is relatively short, but contains a large number of references to relevant literature that can be followed up according to the specific interests of participants.)

Boudon, R. (2010): "Ordinary vs. Instrumental Rationality", article published with comments and rejoinder in *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie* (pp. 87-118, Sonderheft 50).

- Boudon, R. (2010): "The Cognitive Approach to Morality", Ch. 2, pp. 15-33 in S. Hitlin, S. Vaisey (eds.), *Handbook of the Sociology of Morality*. Springer Science & Business Media.
- Boudon, R. (2011): "Modernization, Rationalization and Globalization", pp. 21-36, *Proto Sociology. An International Journal of Interdisciplinary Research*, vol. 27.
- Elster, J. (2012): Introduction, Ch. 1 (The normative study of decision-making) and Conclusion, from J. E. (forthcoming), *Preventing Mischief in Juries, Assemblies and Elections*. (Participants will receive the relevant parts of the manuscript).
- Joas, H. (2000): *The Genesis of Values*. (Chap. 1 on "Formulating the Question" and Ch. 10 on "Values and Norms: The Good and the Right"). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Also on Polity). (The whole book is relevant).
- Joas, H. "Max Weber and the Origins of Human Rights", in C. Camic, P. Gorsky, D. Trubek, (eds.), *Weber's Economy and Society: A Critical Companion*. Stanford University Press.
- Joas, H. (2008): "Punishment and Respect", pp. 159-177 in *Journal of Classical Sociology*, vol.8, no 2.
- Joas H. (2007): "Human Dignity: the Religion of Modernity?", Ch. 11 in H.J. *Do We Need Religion? On the Experience of Self-transcendence*. Paradigm.
- Kalleberg, R. (1993): "Implementing Work-Environment Reform in Norway. The Interplay Between Leadership, Labour and Law", pp. 404- 431 in Lafferty and Rosenstein (eds.): *International Handbook of Participation in Organizations. Volume III*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kalleberg, R. (2007): "A Reconstruction of *The Ethos of Science*", pp. 137-160 in *Journal of Classical Sociology*, no 2.
- Kalleberg, R. (2009): "Can normative disputes be settled rationally? On Sociology as a normative discipline," pp. 251-269, Cherkaoui, M. and Hamilton, P. eds. *Raymond Boudon. A Life in Sociology*. Oxford, UK: The Bardwell Press. Vol. 2.
- Kalleberg, R. (2010): "The Ethos of Science and the Ethos of Democracy", pp. 182-213 in C. Calhoun ed., *Robert K. Merton. Sociology of Science and Sociology as Science*. New York, Columbia University Press.
- Manzo, G. (2010): "Analytical Sociology and Its Critics", pp. 129-170, *European Journal of Sociology*, vol. 51.
- Manzo, G. (2011): "The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts: Some Remarks on the Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology", pp. 929-935, *European Review of Sociology*.

3. Practical information.

The course is open for up to 15 PhD-students and post docs working with topics related to those focused in the workshop. Presenting a paper is not a necessary requirement for all participants, but there will be an opening for participants to present a paper. Those not presenting a paper are expected to read abstracts beforehand (1-3 pages), some will be asked to be discussants and all to participate in the discussion of papers. The application (not more than 1 page) shall give information about the applicant (discipline, institution), a short description of ongoing research (such as PhD-project), the relevance of the workshop for his

or her research and some information about possible paper presentation.

All who need to present a paper in their PhD-program in order to get credit points and acceptance for the seminar, will have their paper evaluated (pass/fail) by professor Kalleberg. Length of final paper: 4000 words (plus/minus 10%). Deadline for preliminary paper: January 1st 2012. Send the preliminary paper directly to all participants and preferably before January 1st.

Norwegian PhD students and post docs will only have to pay for their own travel expenses. The Norwegian University Centre for the social sciences and humanities (<http://www.paris.uio.no/>) in Paris – in cooperation with the Norwegian universities – pay the expenses in Paris (hotel, food, fees) for PhD students and post docs from Norway. Seminar address and hotel information follow later. Norwegian PhD student will obtain credit points according to the rules applying at their respective institutes. The seminar will be open for some French PhD students and junior research fellows.

Administrative responsible in Norway is senior consultant Lillian Baltzrud, working in the Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo. Those interested in participating send their application to her (lillian.baltzrud@sosgeo.uio.no).

Deadline for application: December 1st. Those admitted will receive information about this during the first week of December.

Responsible for the course: Ragnvald Kalleberg, professor of sociology, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo.

The workshop will be held in

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