

Summaries

Cultures of long-term unemployment

Godfried Engbersen

In this article, the author shapes a sociological typology of long-term unemployed people living in 'Het Nieuwe Westen' (The New West), a low-income neighbourhood in the inner city of Rotterdam. This typology is an elaboration of Robert Merton's types of modes of individual adaptation to anomic situations. The typology contains six types: the conformist, the ritualist, the retreatist, the entrepreneur, the calculating and the autonomous individual. These types differ in the way they cope with the problematic triad of long-term unemployment: labour, money and time. To explain the different adaptations and the different strategies the long-term unemployed undertake, the group/grid model of Mary Douglas is introduced. This model links social structure to symbolic structure and to different social practices. With the group/grid model the coping behaviour of long-term unemployed people can be understood in the varying social contexts to which they belong.

Divided works - old and new urbanites in 19th century neighbourhoods

Gerard Anderiesen & Arnold Reijndorp

The neighbourhoods dating from the 19th century in the large Dutch cities, like Amsterdam and Rotterdam, are changing rapidly in recent years. They have been transformed from working-class districts into very heterogeneous environments. On the basis of 50 intensive open interviews with people living in a street in an Amsterdam and a Rotterdam neighbourhood, it is concluded that very different groups for very different reasons are living in these areas. Three kinds of groups are distinguished: the 'stayers', people born and grown up in these areas; the Dutch new urbanites, characterized by a high amount of cultural and social capital; and different ethnic minorities. The fact that the members of these different groups stayed to live in these areas is not due to their lacking other opportunities. Their choice to live there can only be understood when their ways of life and life-histories are considered. The different groups appear to have very little in common, except the fact that they don't belong to the mainstream of Dutch society. But this characteristic is not unifying them. They all consider themselves as outsiders within their neighbourhood.

The regime of fat and thin. Mothers on food and training
Anneke H. van Otterloo

In this article attitudes and practises regarding food and health are studied as manifestations of social inequality. Open interviews with mothers of Dutch primary-school-children of different socio-economic backgrounds confirm differences in taste and food-regimes, connected with attitudes towards health and weight-control. Bourdieu's concept of 'habitus' is combined with of 'mothers' competency' in matters of food and eating in their families. Results are explained by the different ways in which 'habitus' and 'competence' function in distinct socio-economic strata.

Unequal chances in a West-European welfare state: some negative effects of unemployment and occupational disability on schoolachievements
Hannie te Grotenhuis & Jaap Dronkers

The Dutch welfare state guarantees its inhabitants social security. Unemployed or occupational disabled receive an income that attends to a social minimum. Moreover, there is rent subvention, child benefits and a bursary for his or her children. Therefore one might expect no second generation effects of unemployment and occupational disability. The question here is whether children of non-working fathers have worse school careers than children of working fathers. We controlled for relevant social background variables like educational level of both parents, gender of the child and occupation of the mother. The research results show a negative relationship. In spite of all kind of provisions a welfare state supplies, there are still independent, negative effects of unemployment and occupational disability of fathers on the school careers of their children.

'Drowning in a sea of chewing gum'. Makework among members of bureaucratic organizations
Michael Masuch, Perry LaPotin, Rik Verhorst

Parkinson's Law consists of two parts: (1) 'officials wish to multiply subordinates, not rivals', and (2) 'officials make work for each other'. While the Law's first part has been quite extensively examined in the literature, the second part has fallen into oblivion. This paper reexamines the concept of makework inductively. It reports how members of bureaucratic organizations conceptualize makework, how they experience makework, and how they explain it. The concept of makework turns out to be a mirror of bureaucracy, which reflects different aspects of organizing from different angles: Organizational complexity, psychological bias, and individual sensitivities.

The popularity of sport

R. Stokvis

Generally, differences in the number of participants in different sports are explained in terms of individual preferences. It is the thesis of this article, that these preferences are shaped by very general conditions. These conditions are the development of the worldsystem and the corresponding processes of national modernization. In this article it is demonstrated how differences in sports preferences between national states are influenced by their positions in the worldsystem. The role of national modernization will be discussed in a following article.

