
Abstracts

Demystifying the intellectual

R. Gabriëls

Many cultural philosophers have proclaimed the end of the intellectual. If one switches from the cultural to a sociological perspective, it becomes clear that there is no such thing as the end of the intellectual. In this article a sociology of the intellectual is presented to analyse the activities of intellectuals. This is illustrated by the way scientific knowledge is transformed in the public debate on poverty and the calculating citizen. The case study presented shows that intellectuals are more, involved in changing and modifying the outcomes of scientific research than in applying it.

Meaningfulness of contemporary public policy; environmental protection in companies

K. Le Blansch

Dutch government uses less and less unilateral prescriptions of required behaviour, and acts more and more as an equal party amongst others. Whether the innovative government policies are productive, however, is largely unknown up till now, due to the ongoing dominance of rationalistic research. As an example, in this article Dutch environmental protection policies are discussed – target group consultations, environmental covenants and environmental management systems – as well as the research that is conducted on those policies. It is argued that besides government-internal criteria like efficiency, legitimacy and effectiveness, the societal meaning of such policies must be taken into account. Insight into what is referred to as ‘the meaningfulness of policies’ is necessary in order to be able to critically reflect on the changing government role in society.