

Summaries

Curriculum-allocation of girls and boys in single-sex and coeducational schools.

by H. Brutsaert

This paper examines single-sex and coeducational schooling in its effects upon track placement of girls and boys. Use was made of data concerning 6427 third year students from 25 coeducational and 43 single-sex (21 girls' and 22 boys' schools) academically oriented secondary schools in Belgium. A multilevel analysis (HLM) was performed taking into account the effect of parental socio-economic status, cognitive skill, academic achievement (GPA), parental encouragement, school mean SES and gender composition of the teaching staff. The results indicate – though modestly – that the gender composition of the pupil population *in se* exerts an influence on the track placement of girls. Particularly, it was found that girls were more likely to be channeled into a more demanding curriculum in girls' schools than in coeducational schools.

Affluence, modernity, and cultural conservatism in comparative perspective

by Dick Houtman, Jacques F.A. Braster, Manu Busschots en Maria del Mar del Pozo Andrés

According to many studies, political values emphasizing individual liberty cannot be explained from (parental) affluence, but derive from one's cultural background. A large amount of cultural capital (as indicated by a high level of education) and non-religiosity prove decisive. Those findings cannot be reconciled with Inglehart's claim that the widespread support for those values in western countries is caused by those countries' affluence. Therefore, we demonstrate that this pattern can equally well be explained from those countries' cultural modernity (i.e., their high degree of 'de-traditionalization'). Extending the idea that cultural change is not simply caused by rising affluence, two additional hypotheses are derived. As expected, the strength of the relationships between level of education and religiosity on the one hand and the aforementioned political values on the other increases with a country's level of cultural modernity. It is argued that those findings justify skepticism concerning Inglehart's theory of the 'Silent Revolution'.

Differences in well-being between working mothers

by Hanne Groenendijk

Dutch working mothers are being described as stressed and feeling guilty. Some studies, however, show that mothers are feeling well, in spite of the long hours they spend on working and caring. A possible explanation is, that working mothers' well-being is determined by their

cognitive appraisal of the combination of working and caring. The more positive their appraisal and the better the 'fit' between appraisal and situation, the better their well-being. These hypotheses guided a qualitative study among 74 working mothers. A positive appraisal was related to better well-being. This was especially so for mothers whose situation suited the subjective meaning of working and caring underlying their appraisal. Situational characteristics of most importance were a committed husband who makes time for caring and an understanding workplace that does not demand total surrender to the job.

The network metaphor: An assessment of Castells' network society paradigm

by Peter J.M. Nas and Antonia J. Houweling

This article is an assessment of the recent contribution of Manuel Castells to development sociology. His trilogy on the network society comprises an analysis of present-day fundamental social transformations leading towards an informational society. The appraisal focuses on democracy, poverty, and the developing countries.