
Summaries

The invisible hand of the doctor: propharmacies in Cameroon

by Sjaak van der Geest

Propharmacies are small, non-profit pharmacies in rural Cameroon, set up to solve the problem of persistent medicine shortage in government hospitals and health centres. The author asks why some propharmacies do not function well and collapse after a short while whereas others seem to flourish. Analysis of three case histories suggests that underhand privatisation of the propharmacy by the local physician explains its successful functioning. The articulation between formal and informal activities in health care is emphasized. The case study is presented in the context of a general discussion on the pros and cons of regulation versus privatisation.

Regularities in the distribution of influence; the public health care as an empirical test

by J.M. Bos

With the process-method, a recent method for measuring influence in a direct way, is investigated in the past 15 years how influence at the government is divided over comparative actors and which factors caused an unequal dividing. Social rank, relative deprivation, particularism and cosmopolitanism of the actors appears to be connected with inequality. In a new inquire into the influence at the national government by the hospitals we tested the hypotheses based on the earlier found relations. The experiences confirmed most of the hypotheses. But under the different conditions the relevancy of the social concepts differs also. To discover laws-of-influence it will be necessary in the next inquires to specify these conditions. The most chanceable way of investigation seems to search for that laws for government and actors separately.

The empirical relation between age and postmaterialist values. A Theoretical Decomposition of Socialization and Life Course Effects

by Nan Dirk de Graaf and Paul M. de Graaf

The aim of the paper is to interpret the empirical relation between age and postmaterialist values. The theory on postmaterialism presumes that this relation is mainly caused by socialization effects, like affluence experienced in youth and educational attainment, and not by life course effects, like growing material prosperity and growing family responsibility. Since it is impossible to distinguish analytically between socialization and life course effects in a cross-sectional research design, we suggest a strategy different from the ones generally applied in this field of research. We try to interpret both the socialization and the

life cycle effects by theoretically relevant variables; for this purpose socialization effects are divided in individual and structural components. By doing this, we offer explicit interpretations for the development of postmaterialist value patterns and are able to identify both effects. Estimation of the models using recently sampled urban (Utrecht town) data displays that the association between age and value patterns can be interpreted substantially by educational attainment and to a far lesser extent by direct family background and life course effects. The large residual effect on postmaterialism suggests that structural socialization effects are considerable.