

Abstracts

Social Ontology

Balázs Ónya: The Nature of Social Entities – Ontological and Methodological Issues

Abstract: In this paper, I briefly present the main topics, problems, directions, and concepts of the special issue of *Replika* 132 titled *Social Ontology*. In parallel, I will outline the main philosophical and historical milestones of the issue, which may help to understand the antecedents, historical development, and context of social ontology. I also briefly present the issues and results of the articles.

Keywords: social ontology, natural kinds, social kinds, methodology of social sciences

Csaba Mészáros: Societies or Lifeworlds? On the Changing Concept of Society in Anthropology

Abstract: The ontological turn in anthropology has led to a shift in how we understand radical difference, moving from epistemological differences to ontological ones. This shift has made researchers aware that fundamental categorical and typological differences can be discovered during anthropological fieldwork. The ways in which boundaries between animate and inanimate entities, as well as between humans and non-humans, are drawn, also affects how the boundaries of society are defined. It raises questions about whether the concept of “society” as understood by anthropologists is applicable to every community. This article discusses the challenges in conceptualizing society and highlights a key methodological pitfall in ontological anthropology: the tendency to impose rigid onto-typological models, similar to how traditional anthropological approaches treated the concept of culture as a monolithic system. Rather than fixating on fixed categories, embracing the fluidity of ideas may be more helpful in understanding the “native point of view”. One of the main lessons from ontological anthropology is that unclear fieldwork leads to fuzzy concepts, which is not necessarily a negative outcome.

Keywords: Ontological Anthropology, phenomenology, lifeworld, ethnos, society

Abstract: Discourses on social reality are still influenced by a conception of logical positivism that regards all empirically unverifiable statements as pseudo-statements and the entities to which these statements refer as non-existent. Elevating the reality of social kinds and social facts to the same level as that of natural kinds and natural facts could ensure the legitimacy of such discourses. I will not offer such a positive defence, but rather a negative one. I am going to argue that the latter kinds and facts do not have a more definitive or indisputable status than the former ones. In support of my claim, I'll draw on two ideas that are, in my view, converging on the question of revisability and relative status of conceptual frameworks: The first is Wilfrid Sellars' philosophical criticism of the 'categorical given', and the other is Özséb Horányi's communication-theoretical framework, the Participation Theory of Communication (PTC). One consequence of these approaches is the idea that the privileged status of the brute, natural facts and kinds is merely contingent fact: it is only because the concepts belonging to physical objects and perceptual properties are fundamental components of the conceptual framework (in PTC: capacity) that we acquire as our first language.

Keywords: social ontology, natural kinds, social kinds, conceptual frameworks, Wilfrid Sellars, PTC

Csaba Pléh: Social and Societal Distinction in Classical and Contemporary Psychology

Abstract: This historical overview shows how the relationship between social and societal has evolved over the more than 150-year history of modern psychology. I would point out that in the early stages of thinking about the social mind, at the end of the 19th century, concepts reminiscent of the 'group mind' or 'national soul' were still easily used, which was then passed down to the beginning of the 20th century through the mediation of the group mind notion of McDougall, and the debates about social representations proposed by Durkheim. By the mid-1920s, however, primarily due to the rise of American social psychology, methodological individualism challenged this social conceptual frame. After the 100-year history of individualistic social psychology, it has recently come to the fore that we still need to do something about the relationship between social and societal factors in shaping the human mind. I will deal specifically with how the interaction of immediately social and societal processes separates the ideal of man's inherent sociality from the metatheoretical assumption that expresses the oppressive effects of a society regarded as an evil archivist acting in a top-down manner. In the new framework that starts from the inherent biological social nature of the human mind, Machiavellian humans, who seek to deceive others, and empathic humans who seek to cooperate are assumed to coexist for some two hundred thousand years in the history of *homo sapiens*, and that we have to contend with these complex dualities in modern societies as well.

Keywords: Völkerpsychologie, societal, social, social representation, imitation

Abstract: Conceptual amelioration is one of the most discussed topics in social ontology. As originally proposed by Sally Haslanger (2000), conceptual amelioration is a conceptual revision or introduction of a new concept by first asking which questions or problems we want to use the concept to solve and to define it accordingly. In her programmatic study, Haslanger develops ameliorated concepts of gender and race, with the aim of exposing the unjust power asymmetries between women and men, and between white and non-white, and of creating a new social reality by the help of them. The paper first examines Sally Haslanger's original proposal, and then two other philosophical projects that explicitly draw on the method of conceptual amelioration: Katherine Jenkins' plural concept of woman and Kate Manne's concept of misogyny. Exploring the main ambiguities, theoretical and practical difficulties, the author argues for a revised form of conceptual amelioration, according to which it is legitimate to change the meaning of a social concept or to introduce a new concept if and only if the new concept gives better explanations for a wider range of social phenomena, especially for those who suffer disadvantages as a result of the social injustices in question.

Keywords: Conceptual engineering, feminism, conceptual amelioration, conceptual revisionism, misogyny, Sally Haslanger

Women in the Kitchen

Veronika Troll: Women in the Kitchen. The Portrayal of Women in Hungarian Cookbooks at the Beginning and End of the 20th Century

Abstract: In my research I examine the texts of Hungarian cookbooks published in the first and last ten years of the 20th century. I am looking for answers to the question of what kind of women's image the cookbooks portray and what changes can be seen in the image of women in the two periods. Through textual analysis and by revealing narratives, I show the dimensions of the social expectations towards the housewife. I will highlight the narratives framing the relations between men and women in the sources and the ways in which women's emancipation is represented in the texts. The main conclusion of my research is that social expectations of women in the kitchen sphere at the beginning and the end of the century are almost identical. In both periods, women are predominantly portrayed as housewives in the patriarchal gendered domestic sphere. Cookbooks from the two periods present similar expectations, tasks and responsibilities.

Keywords: cookbook, gender, gender order, portrayal of women, housewife, social expectations

Spatial Mobility and Social Inequalities

Flóra Zsinka: Spatial Mobility and Social Inequalities. Theoretical Perspectives

Abstract: In recent decades a number of theoretical works have emerged within the social sciences that argue against static explanations of social phenomena and describes late modern society as a space of mobilities and flows. Several authors argue that spatial mobility will be the most important social structuring factor in the 21st century. The aim of this paper is to shed light on the links between mobility and social inequalities from a theoretical point of view. In order to do so, I will try to present some theoretical perspectives that thematize this connection. The paper will first discuss the concepts of transport studies related to this topic, which problematise unequal access to transport networks. Then, drawing on the international literature, I will try to show how the concept of segregation can be extended to patterns of spatial mobility. The paper then discusses approaches related to the new mobility paradigm, which define mobility as capital. Finally, I will outline a theoretical framework drawing on Bourdieu's theory, that interprets mobility practices as practices that maintain symbolic distinctions. In conclusion, I will try to show how these approaches can be applied to the analysis of the spatial-social processes that emerged or intensified in Hungary in the decades following the change of regime.

Keywords: mobility, inequalities, exclusion, network capital, motility, habitus
Aspects of Swedish Family Policy

The Aspects of the Swedish Family Policy

Adrienn Glázer-Kneisz: The Institutional System of Family Policy in Sweden

Abstract: The paper discusses the development of Swedish family policy institutions from the first half of the 20th century to the present. It asks how the principle of gender equality has been at the heart of Swedish family policy and how this is reflected in family policy actions. What role does this policy play in fertility development, women's labour market participation and the lives of families with children? The relevance of the question is that Sweden has maintained fertility relatively close to replacement level with high female employment, which has only started to decline in the last few years (in common with most countries in Europe). The questions are answered through a synthesis of literature, a narrative literature analysis and a descriptive data analysis.

The results of the study point to the main features of Swedish family policy, the benefits of the support system and the dissonance between principles and practice. The results highlight the role of family policy in family dynamics and the complexity of the issue. The most important conclusion is that gender equality promotion can be a key factor for families and fertility that may not only be relevant in Sweden.

Keywords: family policy, gender equality, institutional system, fertility, gender roles