

## ABSTRACTS

### **THE TYPOLOGY OF THE ASPECTS OF CITIZENSHIP IDENTITY IN THE EXAMPLE OF PORTUGUESE-ESTONIAN FAMILIES**

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Citizenship is most commonly understood as membership in a nation-state. While being a general legal status, unitary institution, or fixed and delimited sets of practices on a structural level, it has a more complex, multidimensional and social character on the level of agency. With the application of the structuration theory of Anthony Giddens, theoretical models based on the duality of structure-agency are introduced to study the connections between citizenship as identity and legal status. Interviews with Estonian mothers and Portuguese fathers contribute to conceptualizing the aspects of citizenship identity and to understanding the specific context of mixed families. The empirical findings explain emotional, practical, egalitarian, symbolic and participative aspects of citizenship identity. Although social practices and sentiments of these families constitute a transnational characteristic to those from the new generation of Europeans, attitudes towards European citizenship follow the same path only to a certain extent. The practical aspects of European citizenship were stressed more by the parents than its emotional dimensions.

**Keywords: citizenship identity, mixed families, European Union citizenship.**

### **METHODOLOGICAL NATIONALISM AND ITS CRITICS**

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The article discusses the development of methodological nationalism in social sciences, its criticisms and alternatives. First, the article discusses the functions of the methodological nationalism in the development of social sciences, explains its limits and opportunities, and contrasts it to ideological nationalism. Secondly, the

article gives an overview of the scholarly criticism of methodological nationalism, and outlines a systematising account of the alternatives proposed, and discusses them critically. The summarising discussion evaluates the possibilities and limits of the alternative methodological perspectives and suggests an informed methodological pluralist position.

**Keywords:** Methodological nationalism, methodologies of social sciences, transnationalism, nation state, globalisation.

## SYSTEMIC POWER AND AUTONOMY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SEMIOTIC CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Semiotical system in the functional sense has dual effect on the subject: on the one hand, it directs and constrains the subject through collective semiotic tools, on the other hand – it provides symbolic resources for subject's semiotic autonomy. This duality may be presented as a relation of systemic power. Explicit and implicit collective meaning structures act as an external coercive power in relation to subjects. Regulative function of the semiosphere manifests itself through various social suggestions which attempt to direct and constrain subject's activity. In contrast, individual semiotic autonomy is realized through the use of signs in the process of self-regulation and autocommunication. Contacting with the semiotically autonomous subject, these social suggestions may catalyze variety of responses. In the article a typology of modes of response are presented. Distancing, resistance, compliance and creative synthesis are generated in the interplay of external catalyzers on one hand, and unreflective and reflective processes within the subject, on the other. A semiotic mechanism of their generation and several theoretical models which explain the probability of specific mode of response are described. Possible application of the model in the analysis of intergroup power relations (e.g. in explanation of the phenomenon of reactive identity) has been demonstrated.

**Keywords:** power, semiotic autonomy, habitus, semiotic cultural psychology, distancing.

## WHAT IS RELATIONAL APPROACH TO POWER?

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There are at least two major understandings of relational approach to power that seldom if ever enter dialogue with each other. The aim of this paper is to bring out the differences and potentials for a dialogue of these perspectives by untangling

the ontological underpinnings and methodological consequences of each. First, a perspective I call 'Anglo-American relationalism'. Compared to traditional approaches that overwhelmingly focus on the powerful (the As) this perspective highlights the importance of considering also the contribution of the powerless (the Bs) to creating and upholding power relations. Second, an approach to power I call 'Continental relationalism' presumes the primacy of relations over entities. The identities of the elements of power relations are viewed not as being 'given' prior to those relations, but as being constituted *within* them.

**Keywords:** power; relational social science, political ontology, political methodology.

## **REVIEW ESSAY: THE SOURCES OF SOCIAL POWER IN MICHAEL MANN'S HISTORICAL POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

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An analytic overview of Michael Mann's analysis of social power is given with special focus on the last two volumes of his 4 volume work *The Sources of Social Power*.