

1: SAGE Books - An Invitation to Ethnomethodology: Language, Society and Social Interaction

The apartment-house janitor and a large group of his tenants are each in one to two possible situations of status-income dilemma. The middle-class tenants, whose incomes are below the janitor's.

It compares the procedures whereby market researchers employing scientific methods construct consumer typologies with those of service workers employing commonsense or ethnomethods to typologize customers. We point to similarities and differences in procedures, resulting typologies, and their functions. Scientific investigators, as well as laymen, find it useful to impose order on empirical reality through the principle of classification. The procedures through which scientific classification systems are developed differ significantly from those whereby lay classification systems are produced. At the same time, there are striking similarities in these cognitive activities. As shared belief systems, socially constructed and socially maintained, each exhibits a specific social distribution whose boundaries are more or less clearly delineated. Scientific and commonsense belief systems differ in systematic ways. Bittner argues that a hallmark of commonsense understanding is its toleration of ambiguity and its lack of internal consistency. In contrast, scientific knowledge seeks systematic clarity, freedom from internal contradiction, and a rationally consistent interpretation of reality. As opposed to science, commonsense embraces a taken-for-granted view of reality and is characterized by a simple acceptance of the world as it appears to our immediate experience of it. This uncritical commonsense outlook is dominated by the pragmatic motive. Science, on the other hand, is an autonomous domain within which organized skepticism prevails. As a cultural system, it institutionalizes deliberate doubt and suspends the pragmatic motive for that of disinterested observation, systematic empirical inquiry, and theory construction see Holzner and Marx , Gurwitsch , and Schutz Geertz argues that a distinguishing feature of commonsense is its accessibility--the assumption that anyone can formulate and grasp its conclusions. Science, in contrast, is a domain of acknowledged experts who pursue empirical inquiry through formalized and codified procedures. Scientific knowledge is gained through systematic and explicit training, whereas commonsense knowledge is acquired informally as a matter of social inclusion. Through acts of classification humans create conceptual constructs which enable them to organize their perceptions and make sense of the heterogeneous complexity of the real world. As Schutz , Gurwitsch , McKinney , and Calder have noted, constructs--lay and scientific--involve abstraction, generalization. All stimulus objects are unique in their occurrence in time and space. However, humans do not: In order to comprehend reality, laymen and scientists introduce order into their perceptual experiences by treating objects as if they were "identical, recurrent, and general" McKinney By ignoring the individual and unique, humans experience objects in light of a certain typicality. The process of typification is a general feature of perceptual experience and involves perceiving the world and structuring it by means of categorical types. The construction of typologies by scientists and laymen serves the function of allowing the encoding, processing, storage, and retrieval of large amounts of data. The information processing perspective suggests that the encoding and consequent information processing and storage operations are importantly driven by existing cognitive structures cf. Olson , Mitchell that guide the incoming information of unique stimulus impressions into preexisting categories. These categories represent prototypical abstractions" induced from past: Typologies are, then, the result of cognitive processes and. The construction of typologies by laymen and scientists in this case market researchers performs similar cognitive functions, as well as strategy defining functions, although the procedures differ. The market researcher uses formalized procedures to typologize potential customers into types which will respond to marketing stimuli in a similar fashion. The service worker uses informal procedures to categorize clients in order to facilitate control over the interactional situation which can result in making work easier and, in some instances, stimulating purchase or increasing rewards. The ability to predict and control the behavior of others is dependent upon ascertaining their perspectives, motives, perceptions, and meanings. Both market researchers and service workers attempt to make sense of the actions and expressions

of their customers, clients, and respondents. Typology construction is both the result of and the vehicle for sense making activity. Thus, the resulting typologies are socially derived and approved. In spite of variations in the procedures used and in the typologies constructed by market researchers, there are systematic similarities between them which differentiate them from those of service workers. In order to simplify the following discussion, we compare lay and scientific consumer typology construction along the following dimensions: Interrogative activities refer broadly to the procedures through which information is gathered about the individuals whom one is attempting to typologize. This includes the systematic data gathering activities of market researchers, as well as the less systematic cue searching activities service workers use to differentiate among individuals. Constructive activities refer to the analytic and cognitive procedures through which the individuals are sorted into types and those types distinguished. The collection of data for the purpose of categorizing consumers is generally based on prestructured instruments administered by mail, telephone, or personal interview. This contact with the respondent to be categorized is an "artificial interaction" in that under the normal, taken-for-granted assumptions of interaction, one does not intensively quiz others and make note of their answers. The respondent must understand that the investigator has a special motive to ask questions and must "bracket" the normal, taken-for-granted assumptions which regulate interaction Garfinkle Thus, the interrogative activities of the market researcher are obtrusive. For the interaction to proceed and for the data to be meaningful, the respondent must share the definition of the situation as an interrogation. The prestructured nature of the data collection results in a lack of flexibility in the interrogative activities. The data gathering is generally not interaction which flows between the researcher and respondent, but a more unilateral directive based on the data collection instrument. The interrogator has limited opportunity to adjust the line of questioning to clarify meaning which may be ambiguous. While the focus group interview is a notable exception to this, Calder notes the problems inherent in generating systematic theory from data by this technique. Constructive Activities As Wind has stated, the analytical technique for developing consumer typologies segments and classifying consumers into categories segments is generally a two stage procedure. In the a priori approach the basis for segmentation is defined prior to the categorization of individuals who are typologized into segments or types generally through cross tabulation and sorting procedures. In the post hoc approach the researcher uses a proximity measure to assess similarities and differences between individuals and then employs one of a number of clustering algorithms to group individuals into clusters on the basis of measured similarities Wind , Frank and Green In the second stage the clusters or segments which have been formed and into which individuals have been placed are profiled. The logic of these procedures involves maximizing the within clusters homogeneity and the between cluster heterogeneity. The procedure used assumes that the relevant criteria which differentiate the categorized individuals in reality have been accurately identified and measured. The interrogative and constructive activities of the market researcher employing scientific methods to typologize consumers are characterized by a combination of judgmental acts and employment of preprogrammed, codified procedures. In spite of all of the areas in which the researcher makes choices and judgments from general issues--definition of problem, research design and interpretation of results--to specific issues--selection of variables, operational definitions, and choice of algorithms see Wind ; Punj and Stewart , there are a number of important areas in which the procedures are standardized. Particularly in the area of constructive activities--data reduction and generalizing techniques--the techniques are predefined and codified as computer programs. Thus the cognitive and analytic procedures through which individuals are sorted and identified as members of particular types segments and chose types described are precise, routinized, and widely understood in the scientific community of market researchers cf. Market researchers can, then, communicate explicitly with one another about the formal procedures through which they typologize a sample of respondents into specific clusters. They are able to share these procedures with one another, and much of the professional literature is given to precisely such methodological discussion. Standardization of technique and method and its communication to others makes possible and encourages the critical perspective characteristic of science. The emphasis upon reliability and

validity in methodological discussion is central to the critical stance of science but is less apparent in common sense inquiry. Additionally formalization and standardization of the encoding, information processing, and storage operations, as well as the resolving cognitive categories or typologies of market researchers render them easily identified and scrutinized. Unlike commonsense operations and resulting categories, these procedures and results are in written form and are unobtrusively accessible to the community of scientists and researchers trained in them. Resulting typologies The resulting typologies of market research are typically multi-dimensional profiles of customer types defined along a variety of factors--typically demographic, socio-economic, psychographic. Market researchers develop consumer typologies for the purpose of segmenting markets with the aim of directing specific configurations of the marketing mix to specific segments. The theoretic purpose of developing consumer typologies or segments is the construction of a cognitive map whose categories bear semblance to the underlying, naturally occurring clusters of individuals in the population of interest. Market research generally, however, has a practical orientation. The typology developed becomes an important element in all of the marketing mix decisions. The use of segmentation schemes is predicated upon the implicit assumption that the marketer can predict and control the behavior of clusters of potential customers, where it makes no sense to do so for individual potential customers. The construction of consumer typologies allows the market researcher to reduce massive amounts of data in a multi-dimensional space to manageable, comprehensible clusters that are actionable and activatable. In order to routinize interactions, select appropriate strategies, and predict possible areas of conflict, service workers develop relatively discrete categories of customers. Interrogative activities To a major degree, service workers employ a priori categories to differentiate among routinely encountered types of clients. In the course of informal conversations workers share experiences, take note of commonalities and devise names for client types. The typological scheme is a key element of occupational lore to which the novice worker is introduced in the course of occupational socialization. Workers are instructed in the types of customers they can expect to encounter, what "data" to look for in making differentiations among customers, the kinds of problems they can reasonably anticipate in their interactions with the various types, and the tactics which have proven to be most effective in controlling the situation. Service deliverers attend to a variety of features of the customer. Unlike the market researcher who employs an explicit, codified procedure for gathering specific information on respondents, the service worker relies on cues which are taken as implicit indicators of client type. In general, client appearance and demeanor are of central importance as cues. For example, used car salesmen routinely differentiate among potential customers on the basis of "saleability" and the anticipated problems presented by the sales interaction. Considerable effort is directed at establishing intimacy with those who give the appearance of being saleable "shoppers or "hot prospects" , while little attention is devoted to the casual "looker" or the "tire-kicker" see Browne. Evaluations of customer "trustworthiness" are of particular importance in those service delivery settings in which the deliverer exercises little control over the selection of customers and where the customer represents the potential of physical harm, or may not provide the expected exchange for services rendered. The customer is not aware that the service worker is engaged in an interrogative activity. The interaction is defined by the customer as one in which he or she as an individual is receiving a service. Thus, there is not a requirement that the customer "bracket" the normal taken-for-granted assumptions which he or she understands pertain to the situation. The service workers is, therefore, not likely to create "demand effects" but, unlike the market researcher, is not able explicitly to interrogate customers in order to gain the information needed to categorize them. Constructive activities The cognitive and analytic procedures through which service workers create typologies and sort individuals into them are not well understood because they are not codified and communicated in written form. Apart from the other characteristics previously discussed which differentiate commonsense and scientific knowledge systems, the codification and written form of scientific knowledge is one of its distinguishing traits. Thus, the critical stance and rationalization apparent in the constructive activities of market researchers is lacking in that of service workers. Explicit attention is not given to the issues of the reliability and validity of the typologizing

scheme. Its utility in allowing service workers to proceed effectively in their work and its socially derived existence are sufficient for its perpetuation. The typologies utilized are explicitly and implicitly communicated to the novice worker by experienced colleagues; their validity and utility are taken-for-granted, and, thus, are rarely subject to question. Workers use the a priori scheme to "label" customers and shape their own behavior vis-a-vis customers on the basis of these labels. In turn, this typologically premised interaction tends to elicit expected behaviors from clients. This behavior is then used by workers to confirm the correctness of the specific customer definition and to legitimate the typological system. Resulting typologies The typification of service workers inform and shape the service delivery interaction. In crowded settings such as mental health clinics or hospital emergency rooms in which over-burdened professionals provide clients with treatment services, typification or typologies are used to determine the form and priority of treatment Roth , Peyrot , Kahne and Schwartz Further, typologizing clients aids service workers in anticipating interactional conflict and Point to standardized techniques by which situational norms can be enforced and conflictual encounters defused Faulkner Roebuck and Frese

2: SAGE Books - Understanding Social Theory

Janitors Versus Tenants: A Status-Income Dilemma Created Date: Z.

By Brian Perry The term "real assets" refers to a broad category of investment options that are characterized by the fact that they are tangible as opposed to stocks, bonds, and CDs which are "paper" assets. Real assets, also sometimes called hard assets, can play an important part in any investment portfolio - including those focused on safety and income. However, there are some important caveats and additional considerations that come with investing in real assets. This chapter will discuss several different categories of real assets and analyze their benefits and drawbacks when it comes to investing for safety and income. Real Estate Due to the sharp real estate correction that occurred between and , many individuals are hesitant to invest in real estate. However, real estate has provided an attractive investment alternative for many years and will likely continue to do so in the future. When talking about real estate, we must differentiate between actually owning physical real estate and owning securities that represent an interest in real estate assets. Physically owning real estate can provide an excellent store of value and a hedge against inflation. Rental properties whether residential or commercial can also provide relatively consistent cash flow for investors seeking income. However, there are several factors investors must consider when purchasing physical real estate. Physical real estate investment can be time-consuming and can be prone to difficulties that are not present in other types of investing i. Furthermore, real estate often requires a substantial initial investment, which can make it difficult for smaller investors to build a diversified portfolio. Finally, real estate is less liquid than most other asset classes making it difficult for investors to raise cash if necessary. An easier way of owning real estate is to purchase securities backed by real estate properties. These securities can be stocks real estate investment trusts , or REITs or bonds mortgage-backed securities or commercial mortgage-backed securities. When purchasing these securities, it is important to analyze the underlying real estate that backs them in order to determine how stable the cash flows are likely to be. Although owning real estate securities is easier in many ways than owning physical real estate, an investor does lose the benefit of owning a real asset. All told, investors with the willingness and ability to invest directly in real estate should probably do so; investors with smaller portfolios or those who are uninterested in the effort required for direct real estate purchases should consider securities backed by real estate. Gold For thousands of years, investors have viewed gold as one of the best stores of value, and therefore one of the safest investments in the world. In times of crisis or market panic, investors often flock to the safety of gold, pushing its price higher. Furthermore, gold is traditionally considered a good inflation hedge and during times of inflation the price tends to rise. Despite these benefits, gold has not been an exceptional long-term investment and has suffered through lengthy periods of underperformance, which are generally followed by shorter periods of strong gains. Nevertheless, gold may be an appropriate holding as part of a diversified portfolio focused on safety. However, it is important to remember that gold does not provide any income and is therefore not appropriate for investors interested in generating cash flow from their portfolios. Investors have several options for purchasing gold. First, they can go out and buy physical gold in the form of bullion or gold coins. This approach has several disadvantages, including the need to store the precious metal and keep it safe. An easier approach is to purchase shares in an exchange traded fund ETF that tracks the price of gold. This provides exposure to the price of gold without the necessity of storing the underlying assets. A third method of tracking the price of gold is to purchase futures or options on gold; while this is an appropriate method for some investors, those most interested in safety should probably seek other alternatives. Finally, an investor can purchase the shares of companies involved in the gold industry. This method provides less direct exposure to the price of gold and is probably less desirable for investors interested in owning "real assets. Collectibles Collectibles such as silver, jewelry, art, or even stamps and comic books can all be considered real assets. Many of these collectibles are intended to be purchased as part of a hobby or for other intangible purposes. Therefore, individuals will face unique challenges when attempting to navigate

these markets with the intention of making an investment. Some of these challenges include a lack of information, difficulty finding available inventory, a lack of reliable pricing data, high storage costs, and very large differences in the prices at which similar items can be bought or sold. Also, most of these assets do not generate any income. All of these factors contribute to make many collectibles inappropriate for the average investor. If an individual is interested in collectibles as part of a hobby or for aesthetic reasons, and if the investment aspect is seen as a bonus, these assets may very well form a reasonable portion of a diversified portfolio. Likewise, if an individual has some unique advantage and presents an unusual ability to profit in these markets, they should certainly pursue that opportunity. However, the majority of investors should probably leave collectibles to those truly passionate about them and instead focus on more traditional asset classes. Read *Contemplating Collectible Investments* to learn more.

Conclusion This chapter discussed real estate, gold and collectibles. Investing in these real assets poses unique challenges not faced in many other investment options. Investors should carefully consider these challenges before deciding whether to include real assets as part of a diversified investment portfolio. If, after carefully considering the challenges, investors do decide to purchase real assets, they will find that they often serve as an excellent store of value and as a hedge against inflation. As such, they could form a valuable component of a portfolio focused on safety of principal. However, gold and collectibles do not generate income, making them inappropriate for individuals interested in generating cash flow.

GOLD, R. JANITORS VERSUS TENANTS: A STATUS-INCOME DILEMMA.

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3: Income inequality in the United States - Wikipedia

JANITORS VERSUS TENANTS: A STATUS-INCOME DILEMMA RAY GOLD ABSTRACT The apartment-house janitor and a large group of his tenants are each in one of two possible situations.

All posts must make an attempt at humor. No posts with their sole purpose being to communicate with another redditor. Click for an Example. This includes asking for upvotes and posts about your cakeday. Serial reposters will be banned. No Politics Anything involving politics or a political figure. No Pictures of just text This includes pictures of text with irrelevant images and photographs of signs that have no relevance to their surroundings. Make a self-post instead. No DAE posts 8. Direct links to images hosted on tumblr ex. They will be deleted regardless of intent. No gore or porn including sexually graphic images. Other NSFW content must be tagged as such Do not rehost or hotlink webcomics. Rehosted and hotlinked webcomics will be removed, unless you are the creator. No SMS or social media content. Any and all social media content is prohibited on this subreddit with the exception of Snapchat-captioned photos. This rule also applies to any reddit-related content. Please read the announcement. Bots and bot-like accounts are not allowed What do I do if I see a post that breaks the rules? Click on the report button, and send us a message with a link to the comments of the post. Instead send us a message with a link to the post. Please allow 10 minutes for the post to appear before messaging moderators Looking for something else?

4: Safety and Income: Real Assets - Gold, Real Estate and Collectibles

The apartment-house janitor and a large group of his tenants are each in one to two possible situations of status-income dilemma. The middle-class tenants, whose incomes are below the janitor's, feel embittered toward him because his income permits him to obtain the costly status symbols they desire.

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5: Irishman's dilemma : funny

The move from night to day both changed the organization of the custodians' work and created status-management dilemmas by forcing the workers into contact with the building's higher-status daytime occupants.

Since it was originally published there have been some developments in social theory that relate to the central themes of the book and I have incorporated some reference to them in this new edition. Also, in the intervening years I have changed some of my views as they appear in the earlier book so I have taken the opportunity to amend or reformulate some of the ideas expressed in it. The practical impact of these changes is as follows. What was originally the final chapter 12 has disappeared from this new edition, although substantial parts of it have been redistributed to other chapters in the second edition specifically Chapters 7 , 8 , 10 and I have repositioned Chapters 10 and 11. Now joining the original discussions of Goffman and Turner are additional commentaries on Mouzelis and Archer. These changes make for a much smoother transition to the issues discussed in the new final chapter. My own work on social theory and social research strategies was only at the mid-point of its development when the first edition was published so I largely refrained from referring to it in that book. Of course, many of the authors and perspectives dealt with in the foregoing chapters arise as topics of discussion in this new chapter, and so it serves both as a conclusion to the book as a whole and an introduction to alternative ideas and new directions for social theory. Since my own ideas focus centrally on issues relating to the dualisms of individualâ€™society agency-structure and macro-micro, the final section of Chapter 12 ties the discussion back to the central organising themes of the book as a whole. There are two other significant changes to the original. Hopefully these two additions make the book even more reader-friendly than the first edition. The more I have thought about and worked on this project, the more convinced I have become that the changes it has enabled me to make are both necessary and important.

Derek Layder Preface to the First Edition [Page ix] This book is an introduction to key issues in modern social theory. Although it does give a general overview of social theory it does not sacrifice depth of analysis in an attempt to cover absolutely every topic. Rather, it concentrates on the work of major authors, perspectives and key issues in social theory. I believe that although there can be no eventual great synthesis in social theory, there are, nonetheless, many different strands which can be usefully drawn together. Thus, while not underestimating the obstacles and incompatibilities, I stress the unities and points of connection in social theory. This moves away from the idea that social theory is necessarily diverse and irredeemably fragmented. I think that the only way forward is to stress the cumulative nature of sociological knowledge and the co-operative dialogue of those involved in its production. I have tried to emphasise the empirical and social research implications of the theoretical issues that I raise. My guiding assumption is that theory is never completely isolated from problems of empirical research, any more than empirical research is free from theoretical assumptions. The really interesting questions concern the nature of the relations between theory and empirical research and not whether either domain has some divinely given priority. In my opinion these dualisms represent not so much false problems as contested issues about which are the most adequate ways of thinking about the interconnections between different features of social life. The most enlivening and important questions facing social theory today are concerned with how different aspects of social reality are related to each other. Both classical and contemporary theorists have produced an interesting diversity of answers to these questions. It is the sorting through of competing and complementary claims in the search for sound and adequate solutions that provides much of the creative impetus, excitement and controversy in modern social theory. Also, two anonymous reviewers from Sage were instrumental in defining the form and content of the book prior to writing. I thank them for this and their subsequent perceptive and useful comments on a completed draft of the book. I owe a lot to Alison Drewett, who went through the manuscript in great detail. Although I have not incorporated absolutely everything she suggested, I found her observations to be invaluable. While not directly involved in the writing of this book, a number of people have generally

influenced my thinking about social theory and I would like to acknowledge them here. Paul Secord of the University of Houston and John Wilson of Duke University have over the years provided collegial support and enthusiasm. I also learned much from Tony Giddens while writing a previous book. David Ashton has always provided important support and helpful advice. In particular our collaboration on an article that combined theory and empirical research stimulated my thinking about crucial aspects of the macro-micro problem. Conversations with William Watson and Simon Locke always proved to be productive and stimulating. Also, I would like to thank the students who attended my sociological theory lectures at the University of Leicester between 1980-1985. Those who wish to obtain a full picture of the overall argument are encouraged to read the book straight through. I have tried to help in this respect by making each chapter fairly self-contained. However, before plundering various parts of the book it is probably best to read Chapter 1 first, since this defines key terms and themes and gives an outline of the chapter contents. Glossary [Page] adaptive theory An approach to social research that emphasises the dual influence of general theory and theory grounded in research data. Adaptive theory Layder is closely linked with the theory of social domains Layder These can occur either in society in general in disruptive periods of transition such as the early stages of industrialisation , or in particular sectors of society for example, because of a relative lack of communal bonds. In such situations people lack firm guidelines for their behaviour and may become confused or depressed. Associated with the work of Skinner and Watson in psychology and Homans in sociology. It refers to distributional inequality as well as accumulated cultural resources. The concept also refers to how the individual feels about, and responds to, these factors. It stresses that subordinates always have some power resources at their disposal. It marks the intersection of social and psychological reality. Discourse involves the use of reason and argument based on a defined area of expertise, knowledge, or simply a body of opinion. Michel Foucault stresses these connections in his writings. Each domain has distinct properties and characteristics which are not reducible to each other but which are, nevertheless, closely interrelated and mutually influential. Giddens believes that agency and structure must not be understood as separate and opposed to each other. Thus, observation, experience and empirical testing of various kinds are seen as the only valid ways of gaining true knowledge. Thus, it is generally concerned with questions of validity and verification 1980-1985 the reasons why knowledge is accepted or rejected. It focuses on how people create and maintain the orderliness of much of everyday interaction. Existentialism is a human-centred philosophy which post-structural and postmodern writers oppose. It is associated with the work of Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton, among others. Examples are the theory of structuration, the theory of communicative action and the theory of social domains. Humanism stresses the importance of meaning in social life and the interpretative skills of sociologists. These drives are generally barred or repressed from our conscious minds. Ideologies attempt to legitimise forms of social inequality. The looseness of the connection indicates the variety of ways in which the different orders may be related. In this latter sense, naturalism has a close affinity with humanism. However, there is a broader sense in which it refers to what exists more generally 1980-1985 including things that are not within the realm of personal experience. In sociology, ontological questions concern the basic nature of society and social life. It is associated with postmodernism as a cultural style. Parsons also uses the term to indicate the general patterning of social roles in different kinds of society. It stresses an objective rather than an interpretative method and the search for generalisations laws about human behaviour. Secondly, the term also refers to a definite cultural style relying on pastiche or a mixture of many different styles. Finally, the term may refer to a set of ideas which includes the rejection of the following: Thus, post-structuralists attempt to breakdown decompose or deconstruct the analysis of social life into its smaller constituent elements. Power can be based on a wide variety of resources money, property, knowledge which can be used to control and manipulate others. This usually operates below the level of conscious awareness 1980-1985 that is, we normally just do the things that are required of us in social situations, we do not express them verbally. Practices can be formal or informal, legitimate or illegitimate. Thus, they exhibit a high degree of presence availability. In more complex capitalist societies, many social relationships are indirect and mediated by telephones, fax machines and so on, because of the dispersion of the

population, sometimes over vast distances. In the theory of social domains, psychobiography is one of the four principal domains of social reality. Both childhood memories of interaction with parents as well as later adult experiences influence our attitudes and reactions or responses to others in social life. Thus, it is the opposite of empiricism. It attempts to combine a scientific view of society with a concern with interpretation and the analysis of meaning in social life. For example, explaining institutions as individual rather than social creations. In turn, this is associated with the view that social arrangements are eternal and cannot be altered by human endeavour. A more moderate version of reification simply insists that societies or social forms are capable of acting and operating independently of human intervention. It has a dynamic and emergent nature resulting from the collective [Page]inputs of those involved. Situated activity constitutes one of the four principal domains of social reality in the theory of social domains. This is the other side of the problem of social reproduction. Reproduction represents the other side of the problem of social production. Social settings constitute the immediate environment of situated activity and are formed through local aggregations of reproduced social relations, positions and practices. This kind of objective approach went hand in hand with a vehement rejection of humanism. It emphasises the role of the self, symbolic communication, language and meaning in everyday life.

6: Self and Community in the City - Bibliography

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Overview[edit] U. For example, the top 0. They became moderately less progressive between and [6] but slightly more progressive measured between and Income transfers had a greater impact on reducing inequality than taxes from to While before-tax income inequality is subject to market factors e. The influence of the labor movement has waned in the U. Shiller , who called rising economic inequality "the most important problem that we are facing now today" , [47] former Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan , "This is not the type of thing which a democratic society â€” a capitalist democratic society â€” can really accept without addressing" , [48] and President Barack Obama who referred to the widening income gap as the "defining challenge of our time". The first era of inequality lasted roughly from the post-civil war era or "the Gilded Age " to sometime around Highly progressive New Deal taxation, the strengthening of unions, and regulation of the National War Labor Board during World War II raised the income of the poor and working class and lowered that of top earners. Wages remained relatively high because American manufacturing lacked foreign competition, and because of strong trade unions. By more than a third of non-farm workers were union members, [53]: This tremendously productive working class gets back for its own consumption a smaller part of its output and hands over in the form of profit to the capitalist owners of the instruments of production a greater part of its output than does either the English or the French working class. Studies have found income grew more unequal almost continuously except during the economic recessions in â€”91 , Dot-com bubble , and sub-prime bust. Before , a larger share of top earners income came from capital interest, dividends, income from rent, capital gains. After , income of high-income taxpayers comes predominantly from labor: In , the Occupy movement drew considerable attention to income inequality in the country. Market income for a household is a combination of labor income such as cash wages, employer-paid benefits, and employer-paid payroll taxes , business income such as income from businesses and farms operated solely by their owners , capital gains profits realized from the sale of assets and stock options , capital income such as interest from deposits, dividends, and rental income , and other income. Higher-income groups tend to derive relatively more of their income from more volatile sources related to capital income business income, capital gains, and dividends , as opposed to labor income wages and salaries. Other sources of capital income also fell: CBO estimated that "average federal tax rates under law would be higher â€” relative to tax rates in â€” across the income spectrum. The estimated rates under law would still be well below the average rates from through for the bottom four income quintiles, slightly below the average rate over that period for households in the 81st through 99th percentiles, and well above the average rate over that period for households in the top 1 percent of the income distribution. Lindert and Jeffrey G. The share of incomes for those in the bottom half of the U. Pretax incomes for the top 0. The economists also note that the growth of inequality during the s to the s can be attributed to wage growth among top earners, but the ever-widening gap has been "a capital-driven phenomenon since the late s. Causes of income inequality in the United States Illustrates the productivity gap i. Each dot is an industry; dots above the line have a productivity gap i. A study in the *American Sociological Review* , as well as other scholarly research, using the broadest methodology, estimates that the decline of unions may account for from one-third to more than one-half of the rise of inequality among men. As unions weakened, the vast majority of the gains from productivity were taken by senior corporate executives, major shareholders and creditors e. As unions have grown weaker, there has been less pressure on employers to increase wages, or on lawmakers to enact labor-friendly or worker-friendly measures. This would cause capital share to increase, relative to labor share, as machines replace some workers. More important, soaring incomes at the top were achieved, in large part, by squeezing those below: Perhaps more important still, the

wealthy exert a vastly disproportionate effect on policy. And elite priorities — obsessive concern with budget deficits, with the supposed need to slash social programs — have done a lot to deepen [wage stagnation and income inequality]. Relevant discussion may be found on the talk page. Please do not remove this message until conditions to do so are met. February Learn how and when to remove this template message Real GDP per household has typically increased since the year , while real median income per household was below levels until , indicating a trend of greater income inequality i. The decline measured for wages and salaries was 7. These trends imply income due to capital i. For example, Alan B. In general, as income inequality worsens: Krueger wrote in Restoring a greater degree of fairness to the U. Krueger wrote that borrowing likely helped many households make up for this shift, which became more difficult in the wake of the — recession. A strong demand for redistribution will occur in societies where a large section of the population does not have access to the productive resources of the economy. Rational voters must internalize such issues. Increasing inequality harms growth in countries with high levels of urbanization. High and persistent unemployment also has a negative effect on subsequent long-run economic growth. Unemployment may seriously harm growth because it is a waste of resources, because it generates redistributive pressures and distortions, because it depreciates existing human capital and deters its accumulation, because it drives people to poverty, because it results in liquidity constraints that limit labor mobility, and because it erodes individual self-esteem and promotes social dislocation, unrest and conflict. Policies to control unemployment and reduce its inequality-associated effects can strengthen long-run growth. Gross , former managing director of PIMCO , criticized the shift in distribution of income from labor to capital that underlies some of the growth in inequality as unsustainable, saying: Even conservatives must acknowledge that return on capital investment, and the liquid stocks and bonds that mimic it, are ultimately dependent on returns to labor in the form of jobs and real wage gains. If Main Street is unemployed and undercompensated, capital can only travel so far down Prosperity Road. A December Associated Press survey of three dozen economists found that the majority believe that widening income disparity is harming the US economy. They argue that wealthy Americans are receiving higher pay, but they spend less per dollar earned than middle class consumers, the majority of the population, whose incomes have largely stagnated. Higher levels of income inequality increase political pressures, discouraging trade, investment, hiring, and social mobility according to the report. The main reason for this shift is the increasing importance of human capital in development. When physical capital mattered most, savings and investments were key. Then it was important to have a large contingent of rich people who could save a greater proportion of their income than the poor and invest it in physical capital. But now that human capital is scarcer than machines, widespread education has become the secret to growth. Epstein defended inequality in a free market society, maintaining that "taxing the top one percent even more means less wealth and fewer jobs for the rest of us. In his dissent in the Louis K.

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It is argued that social interaction involves the reciprocal typification of parties to any encounter in the light of the social theories which those parties have available to them. One element of such theories is a conception of the social structure of one's society, including a taxonomy of.

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