

Abstracts

Ulrich Beck and Edgar Grande

Beyond Methodological Nationalism: Extra-European and European Varieties of Second Modernity

The questions at the heart of this introductory chapter are the following: How can social and political theory be opened up, theoretically as well as methodologically and empirically, to a historically new, entangled Modernity which threatens its own foundations? How can it account for the fundamental fragility, the mutability of societal dynamics (of unintended side effects, domination and power), shaped by the globalization of capital and risks at the beginning of the twenty-first century? What does “methodological nationalism” mean and how can its problems be addressed in empirical research? In the following, we will develop this “cosmopolitan turn” in social theory and research in four steps: firstly, we present the major conceptual tools for a theory of cosmopolitan modernities; secondly, we de-construct Western modernity by using examples taken from research on individualization and risk; thirdly, we address the key problem of “methodological cosmopolitanism”, namely the problem of defining the appropriate unit of analysis; and finally, we discuss perspectives and dilemmas of a theory of cosmopolitan modernities, in particular problems of political agency and prospects of political realization.

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The Individualization of Relationships in Japan

The individualization of relationships refers to the situation in which a leeway is allowed for the intervention of individuals making choices on their own in developing and maintaining relationships. Two types of discourses on relationships were generated: one is the “liberation” discourse that ties the individualization of relationships to individual self-realization and the demonstration of individuality, and the other is the “deprivation” discourse that ties the individualization of relationships to the weakened state of existing relationships. In this paper, we investigate which the aspects – “liberation” or “deprivation” – appear in family, company and local communities. We found that even though the Japanese are positive about living an individual life free from family and corporate relationships in the context of “liberation”, in order to deal with the risks of “deprivation”, they easily resort to family members and corporate community that formerly controlled or bound them.

Young-Hee Shim and Sang-Jin Han

“Family-Oriented Individualization” and Second Modernity: An Analysis of Transnational Marriages in Korea

This paper examines individualization from the perspective of transnational marriage as a concrete historical tendency in Korea today. Transnational marriage involves global risks, individualization and cosmopolitan change identified by Beck as three major driving forces of second modernity. The research questions asked in this paper include: First, how do global risks work as a driving force pushing the state and the individuals toward transnational marriage? Second, how has the process of transnational marriage taken place on both the institutional and the individual level? Third, what are the salient characteristics of the relationship

Soziale Welt 61 (2010), S. 329 – 331

between individual and family in transnational marriages? To sharpen analytic foci, conceptual distinctions have been made between the objective-structural and the cultural-discursive dimensions as well as between push and pull factors of the transformation. The central claim we have developed in this paper is double-front: on the one hand, individualization in Korea seen from transnational marriage tends to converge with the Western pattern insofar as we see this from an eye of push factors of global significance. On the other, due to the difference in pull factors particularly at the cultural-discursive level, individualization does not proceed in the way as found in the West, but it rather encompasses a delicate, culture-bound balance between individual and family community. The concept of 'family-oriented individualization' embraces the aspects of dynamic balance between individualization and reactivating community as a dual process of historical change in East Asia.

Joy Yueyue Zhang

The Cosmopolitization of Science. Experience from Chinese Stem Cell Scientists

It is commonly perceived that the 'globalization of science' may result in a 'Westernization of science'. In this paper, however, I use the case of stem cell science in China to demonstrate that developing countries are sometimes able to effectively shape the norms of global / local scientific exchange. Based on interviews with 38 stem cell scientists in six Chinese cities in early 2008, this paper elucidates Chinese scientists' outlook towards cross-border collaborations and the effects that the internationalization of science has had on everyday laboratory operations. Findings suggest that although there still exists an asymmetry of scientific influence, and in many aspects China is still 'catching-up' to the West, there is also a changing nature of communication beyond borders. One key aspect of recent international scientific development is the growing necessity for local stakeholders to acquire a global mindset and to compare, reflect and accommodate diverse interests. This is what I define as the 'cosmopolitization of science'. The study empirically examines the sociological and methodological implications of the cosmopolitization process and further develops Ulrich Beck's cosmopolitan theory by delineating four main features of the 'cosmopolitization of science': shared future benefits, passive ethicization, reflexive negotiation, and continuous performance.

David Tyfield and John Urry

Cosmopolitan China?

Cosmopolitanism is the focus of much current debate. This literature is marked by a relative paucity of detailed research examining cosmopolitanism as a social force within particular societies. Two topics that have received little attention despite their utter importance for current global challenges are the scale and impact of cosmopolitanism in China and the significance of 'low carbon innovation'. This paper explores both on the basis of over 70 interviews with parties involved in low-carbon innovation, a field particularly propitious for cosmopolitan motivation. We argue that there is distinct evidence of cosmopolitanism in China but this is relatively fragile and an elite development, despite China's increasingly deep integration into global networks and flows. Furthermore, the cosmopolitanism in evidence is a distinctly Chinese version, thereby offering important lessons regarding the nature of cosmopolitanism *per se* and the reciprocal challenge of China to the existing cosmopolitanism of the global North.

Anja Weiß

Comparisons in Multiple National and Non-National Contexts. Methodological Cosmopolitanism in Sociological Research on Highly Skilled Migration

Sociology's nomothetic approach aims at general insights by comparing a large number of cases which are placed in a large context. The sociological approach is advantageous for observing non-intentional and non-politicized effects of contexts on cases. As a side-effect of this approach specifics of case and context are often neglected. The fact that cases are mostly placed in the nation state context alone is highly problematic. The research program of methodological cosmopolitanism proposes a different manner of constructing cases and contexts and of situating cases in contexts. Drawing on methods and concepts of ethnographic and comparative research, the article suggests situating cases in multiple contexts (among others e.g. transnational social fields or postcolonial spaces). Comparisons should be designed in a manner which enables us to empirically understand the extent and ways in which the nation state (system) impacts on cases. Ideal types of research designs which go "beyond" the nation state frame are discussed on the basis of the author's research on highly skilled migration.