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373 Editorial [G] | Beat Fux

377 Sibling Rivalry for Parental Resources: A Problem of Equity in Education? A Six-Country Comparison with PISA Data [E] | Stefan C. Wolter and Maja Coradi Vellacott

In this paper we analyse with the PISA data on literacy the achievements of fifteen-year-old pupils in six member countries of the OECD, whether the number of siblings affects the individual educational outcome. The hypothesis that we test is whether parents' resources matter for educational outcome. The hypothesis is tested by regressing the literacy achievement on the number of siblings within a family. We find that the family size has significant effects in all six countries analysed but we also find significant differences in these effects between countries. It seems that some countries can better make up for them than others and thereby achieve a higher degree of equity in the educational system.

399 The Gender Wage Gap and Occupational Segregation in Switzerland, 1991–2001 [E] | Alfonso Sousa-Poza

This paper analyzes trends in the gender wage gap and occupational segregation in Switzerland in the years 1991 to 2001 with data from the first 11 waves of the Swiss Labor Force Survey. The results reveal that the gender wage gap is converging at a very slow rate and that if this rate remains unchanged it will take another 68 years before the wage gap is eliminated. Unexplained wage differences, i. e. the wage gap still remaining after controlling for differences in human-capital and other endowments, have barely changed in the past years. Occupational segregation has also remained very constant. Based on 3- and 2-digit occupational codes, the Duncan-Duncan segregation index is equal to about 40%. These results suggest that Switzerland still has some way to go before it reaches similar female-to-male earnings ratios as in other industrialized countries.

417 Knowledge and Action. The Relevance of Sociological Observations outside of the Discipline

[G] | Thomas Kurtz

Sociology has, compared to other social sciences, a particular problem of application. Sociology as a science is not primarily responsible for a functional system as the political

or the educational sciences. It observes from a strictly external point of view and describes from the outside the very descriptions which the disciplines have already formulated out of their own functional systems. The article questions the consequences of this problem for sociology as a social science and for its relevance outside of science.

433 **Diffusion Patterns of Computer Work in Switzerland [G] | Stefan Sacchi**

Theoretical explanations attribute at least part of the profound changes in the world of work to the diffusion of IC-technologies and computer work. For Switzerland at least, the empirical testing of these assumptions is often difficult as appropriate indicator series measuring the diffusion of computer work are not available. Against this background, this contribution proposes a new set of annual indicators for the industry-specific diffusion of computer work and the subsequent generations of IC-technology since 1977.

453 **Work-Family Balance in the Medical Profession [G] | Elena Sultanian, Jürg Schwarz and Matthias Niklowitz**

How do physicians negotiate a balance between work and family life? This question arises against the background of structural changes in the medical profession. The results of this study on general practitioners (n=131) show that neither sex nor age, but work-related variables for men and family-related variables for women, count for the positive or negative attitudes towards work-family balance. Female physicians with children tend to adapt their workload to the needs of family life, in direct contrast to the male physicians and female physicians without children. We conclude that physicians have some individual scope to balance out work and family needs. The use of this scope depends on their attitudes towards the ideology of gender – not the structural constraints of their working environment.

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