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# Swiss Journal of Sociology

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This article analyzes for Switzerland which families make use of the still limited formal child care facilities, which families resort to informal arrangements, and which parents look after their children exclusively within the nuclear family. The factors determining the choice of the different types of child care are analysed by means of multinomial logistic regression models. These also enable to measure the influence of the family characteristics, the institutional setting and the cultural values. The empirical analysis is based on the child cohort of the Swiss Survey of Children and Youth (COCON) and makes use of the first survey wave (2006) when the children were 6 years old. It shows that the use of nonparental child care depends primarily on socio-economic factors as well as the local child care supply.

Keywords: Child care, family, child care supply, norms and values, inequality

33 Educational Inequality in Switzerland and Cantonal Variations: The Contribution of the 2003 Pisa Study [F] | Georges Felouzis, Samuel Charmillot and Barbara Fouquet-Chauprade

Abstract: Based on the PISA 2003 data for Switzerland, this article discusses the nature, the extent and the sources of educational inequalities in Switzerland. Our results first indicate that the most structuring factor of educational inequalities is the students' socio-economic background and that these inequalities vary depending on the canton. Second, they show that the differences in average scores between the cantons are largely connected with the average ages of the students in the 9th grade (last year of compulsory schooling), which vary greatly from one canton to another. When the effect of age is controlled by a multilevel analysis, the canton loses much of its explanatory capacity and the hierarchy of cantonal performances is totally changed. Finally, they reveal that educational inequalities

are strongly correlated with the extent of social segregation in the different tracks of each cantonal educational system.

Keywords: PISA, school inequalities, educational system, school segregation, educational policies.

- 57 **Successful and Unsuccessful Intergenerational Transfer of Educational Attainment on Wellbeing in the Swiss Youth Cohort TREE [E]** | Robin Samuel, Sandra Hupka-Brunner, Barbara E. Stalder and Manfred Max Bergman

Educational attainment is considered the most important contributor to status and occupational achievement in modern societies. Largely dependent on socio-economic background, the transfer of educational attainment from parents to their offspring is likely to have various consequences. Some of these consequences may be of an intra-individual nature. In this article, we explore the consequences of (un)successful intergenerational transfer of educational attainment on wellbeing (self-esteem, positive attitude toward life), drawing primarily on the work of Pierre Bourdieu. We use panel data from the Transition from Education to Employment Project (TREE), and employ longitudinal autoregressive structural equation models. The results show a destabilization of wellbeing over time for the group with downward educational mobility.

Keywords: Intergenerational educational transfer, wellbeing, self-esteem, positive attitude toward life, Bourdieu

- 79 **University or Polytechnic? The Effects of Family Background on the Choice of Higher Education Institution [E]** | Stefan Denzler

This paper deals with the educational choice of high-school graduates, more precisely with their intention to enter higher education studies either at traditional academic universities or at polytechnics (Fachhochschule/Haute école spécialisée). The question is whether educational choice at the end of high school is determined by socio-economic origin. The analyses, based on a representative sample of 1454 high-school graduates from the German speaking part of Switzerland, indicate that there is a systematic self-selection into the different types of tertiary institutions, affected by gender and socio-economic background. Students with non-university graduate fathers have a significantly lower probability to study at a university.

Keywords: Higher education, university, technical college, educational choice, social origin

- 99 **An Empirical Study about the Social Distribution of Road Traffic Noise in the Cities of Basle and Bern [G]** | Reto Meyer

To date environmental disparities have been largely excluded from sociological research. In the German speaking countries, studies in this area have been done mostly by public health scientists who seek to explain health differences between social classes. Almost no attempts have been undertaken to explain environmental inequality itself by simultaneously testing several variables for social status against each other. In addition environmental variables are often measured by proxy using subjective measures of annoyance rather than objective measures. For the present study objectively measured data on road traffic noise is assigned to each survey respondent in Basle and Bern at their home address. In multivariate models income, education and national origin are tested against each other to explain the individual

exposure to noise. We find support for the hypothesis of higher environmental burden for lower social classes, although the disparities between classes are rather small.

Keywords: Environmental justice, noise, environmental burden, inequality

## 127 Appropriateness and Structure [F] | Emmanuel Lazega

This article proposes a theoretical synthesis combining two separate traditions in the sociology of knowledge: on the one hand, a symbolic interactionist approach to social rationality based on a theory of knowledge claims and appropriateness judgments; on the other hand, a neo-structural approach to social processes focusing on collective learning and co-orientation observed through the structure and dynamics of advice networks (i.e., “who seeks advice from whom”) in formally organized social contexts. This synthesis brings to light the diversity of epistemic communities, statuses and alignments brought about by secondary socialization and collective learning in the managerial and market society.

Keywords: Symbolic interactionism, neo-structuralism, appropriateness judgement, advice networks, secondary socialization

## 151 Perspectives in the Sociology of Stranger [G] | Julia Reuter

The article presents an overview of the partly isolated findings of the sociology of the stranger after hundred years of existence. Based on the (ideal) typical constructions of strangeness, it deals with the dominant reception of the sociology of the stranger within and outside the discipline. It chooses to focus on the differences in historical embeddings, theoretical perspectives and (moral) evaluations of strangeness. Finally the article examines the contemporary studies of strangeness regarding the new theoretical and empirical perspectives they may bring.

Keywords: Strangeness, marginal man, outsider, stigma, indifference

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