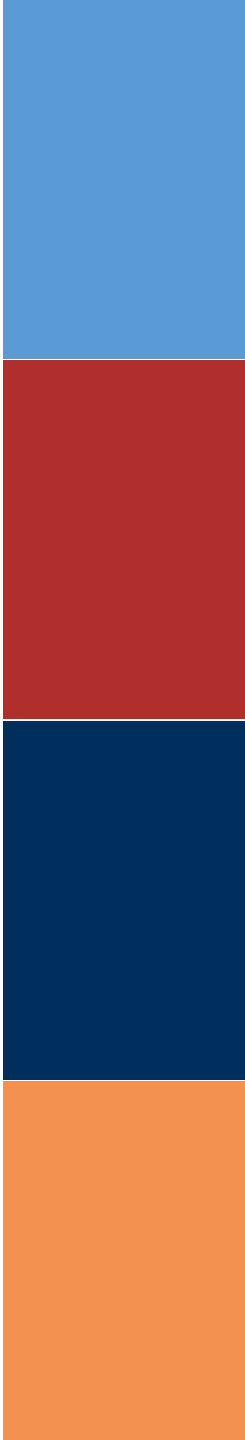




What is your capital?

Bourdieu's ideas about capital and habitus



Program

1. Introduction

1. Who are we

2. Who is Bourdieu

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3. Different forms of capital

4. Activity: The Trump Tower

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Introduction

Who are we

Gertraud Kremsner, Koblenz



Steffen Martick & Wiebke
Bergjürgen, Leipzig

Pierre Bourdieu

- Lived from 1930 to 2002 in France
- Was sociologist and philosopher
- Worked in France's most famous universities
- Was interested in the „distinction“ between people
- „Distinction“ was also the title of his most famous book



Habitus

What is Habitus?

Habitus describes

- which social behaviour a person has
- in which surrounding a person lives
- what a person radiates

We see how a person looks and acts.

We see the posture of a person.

We see the manners of a person.

All of this helps us to analyse to which group a person belongs.

BUT ONLY SEEMINGLY!

What is Habitus?

You can identify the habitus of a person on different aspects

For example:

- How a person eats
- What a person wears
- How a person moves
- How a person shapes his or her life

Habitus consists of many characteristics.

It helps us to distinguish people from one another.

But the way we perceive people also leads to classifying them.

What is Habitus?

- Children learn from their parents and later in school and from their peer groups how to behave and how to talk.
- Habitus is being formed by the society/by our surroundings. E.g.: People who work at universities forget how to use simple language.
- People adapt their habitus according to their surroundings
- Habitus is being shaped by the surroundings of a child (cultural influence)

Examples for Habitus

- Teachers and students come from different backgrounds, but they all meet at school.
- For billionaires it is normal to be on holidays 3 times a year. Poor people may only afford small trips, e.g. to grandparents or relatives around the corner.
- You can find different forms of habitus on leisure spots. Rich people spend more money there. For example: They buy many stuffed animals for their kids at the zoo. Poor people may only use free offers.

Examples for Habitus

(insert stereotypical images, e.g. from a rich person, a cleaning person and an intellectual person)



Different forms of capital

Bourdieu and symbolic capital

Symbolic capital...

...summarises all forms of capital (economic, social and cultural capital)

It describes what we see in other people



„Who talks about equal opportunities forgets that social games aren't fair games.“ Pierre Bourdieu

Bourdieu and Economic Capital

Economic capital...

...means financial opportunities, for example how much people have on their bank accounts, how much they earn and how much they will inherit one day.

Bourdieu and Social Capital

Social capital...

...means the networks we can rely on: a big circle of friends, contact to a huge family and many colleagues at work

Bourdieu and Cultural Capital

Cultural Capital - 3 forms

- Embodied cultural capital: for example our knowledge and the experiences we make in our lives
- Objectified cultural capital: for example books, paintings, instruments and much more. I know how to use these.
- Institutionalised cultural capital: formal knowledge. For example titles (PhD), school certificates and academic degrees



The Trump Tower

Let's build a house



Wooden blocks

Duplo

Toilet paper rolls

Let's build a house



Donald Trump

Cinderella

Mahatma Gandhi

Discussion

- What do you think: which habitus do others see in you?
- Which forms of capital are you strong at?
- Which forms of capital are your weak spots?

Thank you for listening and participating!