

Conceptualising the Micro-Macro Links across Disciplines

A workshop with Alf Lüdtke, Piotr Filipkowski and Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka

Place: Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt, Steinplatz 2, 99085 Erfurt

Date: 29 November 2017, 5 December 2017, 31 January 2018

Organiser: Kornelia Kończal (Hannah Arendt Institute, TU Dresden)

Language: English

This seminar will discuss one of the major methodological issues in social and cultural studies: the relationship between micro and macro perspectives. Depending on the research topic, location and timeframe, this can be translated as tensions between agency and structure, biography and society, or interpersonal behaviour and institutional systems. The question of how to link such disparate levels of analysis confronts scholars across disciplines. Subsumed under the heading of “micro-macro links”, a range of topics will be discussed in this seminar, including aggregation, embeddedness and representativeness, to list a few. More specifically, we will discuss how to conceptualise links between individual motivations and societal outcomes on the one hand, and the impact of large-scale social processes on individual behaviour on the other; on making case studies productive for a linked analysis; and, as a historian put it – on ways to “convert episodic knowledge into a general understanding of what happened” (Gross 2012).

So far, despite our shared challenges, scholars have restricted their discussions on micro-macro perspectives to their own disciplines. Our seminar aims to cut across the boundaries between history, sociology and anthropology, and find sensible ways to combine the two perspectives. In order to facilitate a fruitful interdisciplinary debate, external experts have been invited to share with us their experience:

Prof. Alf Lüdtke (Erfurt / Berlin), Historian (29 November 2017: 12.15-13.45, room 706 b)

Dr Piotr Filipkowski (Warsaw / Vienna), Sociologist (5 December 2017: 10.15-11.45, room 805)

Prof. Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka (Bielefeld), Ethnologist (31 January 2018: 10.15-11.45, room 805)

Primary readings for the first session (29 November 2017):

- 1) Jaques Revel, Multiple Narratives. Scale and Discontinuity in History, in: Sebastian Jobs, Alf Lüdtke (ed.), *Unsettling History*, Campus, Frankfurt a. M. 2011, p. 49-61.
- 2) Giovanni Levi, The Origins of the Modern State and the Microhistorical Perspective, in: Jürgen Schlumbohm, *Mikrogeschichte – Makrogeschichte*, Wallstein, Göttingen 1998, p. 53-82.
- 3) Dipesh Chakrabarty, Minority Histories, Subaltern Pasts, in: idem, *Provincializing Europe. Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, Princeton 2000, p. 97-113, esp. p. 102-113.
- 4) Christopher Browning, German Killers. Behavior and Motivation in the Light of New Evidence, in: idem, *Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers*, Cambridge Univ. Press, New York 2000, p. 143-169.

Further readings for the first session:

- 1) Charles Tilly, Micro, Macro, or Megrim?, in: Jürgen Schlumbohm (ed.), *Mikrogeschichte – Makrogeschichte*, Wallstein, Göttingen 1998, p. 33-51.
- 2) Alf Lüdtke, *Alltagsgeschichte, Mikro-Historie, historische Anthropologie*, in: Hans-Jürgen Goertz (ed.), *Geschichte. Ein Grundkurs*, Rowohlt, Reinbek bei Hamburg 2007 (3rd ed.), p. 628-649.
- 3) Alf Lüdtke: *Introductory Notes*, in: idem (ed.), *Everyday Life in Mass Dictatorship. Collusion and Evasion*, Palgrave Macmillan, Houndsmills 2016, p. 3-12.
- 4) Jan T. Gross, with Irena Grudzińska-Gross, *Golden Harvest. Events at the Periphery of the Holocaust*, Oxford University Press, New York 2012.

Primary readings for the second session (5 December 2017):

- 1) Monika Krause, *Recombining micro/ macro: The grammar of theoretical innovation*, *European Journal of Social Theory*, 16(2)/2013, p. 139–152.
- 2) Werner Raub, Vincent Buskens, Marcel A. L. M. van Assen, *Micro-Macro Links and Microfoundations in Sociology*, *Journal of Mathematical Sociology*, 35/2011, p. 1–25.
- 3) Jiří Kabele, *The Agency/Structure Dilemma: A Coordination Solution*, *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, 40/3, 2010, p. 314–338.
- 4) Margaret Archer, *Morphogenesis versus structuration: on combining structure and action*, *The British Journal of Sociology*, 33/4, 1982, p. 455–483

Further readings for the second session:

- 1) Randall Collins: *The Microfoundations of Macrosociology*, in: *American Journal of Sociology*, 1981, vol. 86, p. 984-1014.
- 2) Susanne Düwell, Nicolas Pethes et al (ed.): *Fall – Fallgeschichte – Fallstudie. Theorie und Geschichte einer Wissensform*, Frankfurt am Main: Campus, 2014.
- 3) Joan Huber (ed.): *Macro-micro Linkages in Sociology*, Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1991.
- 4) Alexander J. Munch, N.J. Smelser (ed.): *The Micro-Macro Link*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986.
- 5) Thomas Schelling: *Micromotives and Macrobehaviour*, New York: Norton, 1978.
- 6) Jonathan Turner, Barry Markovsky: *Micro-Macro Links*, in: Georg Ritzer (ed.): *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, Malden, MA: Blackwell Publ., 2007, p. 2997-3005.

Primary readings for the third session (31 January 2018):

- 1) Clyde J. Mitchell: *The Kalela Dance. Aspects of Social relationships among Urban Africans in Northern Rhodesia*, Manchester University Press, 1956, 52 pp.
- 2) Nina Glick Schiller, Ayşe Çağlar: *Locality and Globality. Building a Comparative Analytical Framework in Migration and Urban Studies*, in: idem (ed.): *Locating Migration: Rescaling Cities and Migrants*, Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2011, 60-81.
- 3) Sally Engle Merry: *Transnational Human Rights and Local Activism. Mapping the Middle*. *American Anthropologist* 108 (1), 2006: 38-51.

Further readings for the third session:

- 1) Thomas H. Eriksen: *Trust in Transnational Networks*. *Glocal Themes*, 2005, Issue 1.
- 2) Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka and Lena J. Kruckenberg: *On the Margins of World Society: Working with Impoverished, Excluded and Marginalised People*, in: G. Crawford, L. J.

Kruckenberg, N. Loubere, R. Morgan (ed): Understanding Global Development Research, London: Sage, 2017, 89-108.

- 3) Matthew M. Chew: How Global Stratification affects Local Academies. The Inflated Role of Knowledge Reception in the Philosophy Discipline in Modern Japan. *International Education Studies* 3 (1), 2008: 52-59.
- 4) Ulrike Freitag, Achim von Oppen, Introduction: "Translocality": An Approach to Connection and Transfer in Regional Studies, in: idem (ed.): *Translocality. The Study of Globalising Processes from a Southern Perspective*, Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2010, 1-21.

Readings will be provided as pdf-files to the registered participants.

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