

Global Knowledge? – *Nico Stehr (Sociology), Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen (Germany)*

I will present my observations on my theme, “Global worlds of knowledge” or, to employ a less static concept, “globalizing worlds of knowledge,” in a series of steps: I begin by offering a simple conceptual model that specifies various sociological aspects of the idea of “global knowledge”. What follows is reference to allegedly already existing global worlds of knowledge and I indicate where they are supposed to found. After this skeptical enumeration of knowledge that has already achieved the status of global knowledge, I attempt to delimit my topic with greater precision drawing on the conceptual model outlined earlier. I draw attention to a series of assumptions meant to aid me as explanatory guides. Next follows a brief reference to my conceptual view of knowledge. The subsequent observations are divided into two parts, beginning with a discussion of those aspects that raise one’s hopes for the fair chance that globalizing worlds of knowledge might exist. In a second, longer section I draw attention to social processes and to features of knowledge that make it appear more likely doubtful that the implementation of global worlds of knowledge is at hand. I close my observations with a series of questions that must remain open.