

Spatial Relations, Action, and the Constitution of Socio-Cultural Realities

Benno Werlen (Geography), University of Jena (Germany)

Geographical studies are traditionally concerned with the study of spaces. In the last decades the turn towards socio-theoretical approaches were creatively applied. But most research perspectives are not questioning the implication of a action-, agency-, practice- or discourse-centered perspective for the status of space in social interactions. Mostly, some kind of container idea remains as underlying, unquestioned concept. In this paper the argument is developed, that space 'itself' is to be understood both as a constructed and a constitutive element of action; an important mean of peoples practises by which they establish all kinds 'world-binding'. One of the main consequences of this argument is that within geographical studies the regionalising implications of human actions are of central interest, but not regional studies. Consequently the questions about the interrelation of action, knowledge shift from the 'spatialisation' of knowledge to the analysis of the spatial/regional implications for the subjective stock of knowledge and its role for the production of meaning and constitution of schemes of interpretation.