

Conference, April 6/7, 2022

Social Worlds, Arenas and Situational Analysis

Theoretical Debates and Empirical Research Experiences

Social worlds and arenas theory as developed by STRAUSS (1978, 1982a and b) forms part of the ecological, relational tradition of the Chicago School. It is an essential component of grounded theory-based situational analyses (CLARKE, FRIESE, & WASHBURN 2018; CLARKE & STAR 2008). Social worlds are regarded as a “universe of discourse” (MEAD 1934), and their members collectively establish specialized bodies of knowledge pertaining to the solution of particular problems (STRAUSS 1993). Originating and often applied in research on organization, occupations, and professions, the theory was further developed in Science and Technology Studies (CLARKE & STAR 2008, p. 115; SCHÜTZE 2016a and b). The interactionist approach of social worlds must be distinguished from similar concepts such as lifeworld, everyday world, or community (SCHÜTZE 2016b: 89). In its take on collective action and through the notion of the arena as the site of negotiating controversies, it resembles approaches such as Bourdieu's field theory (DIAZ-BONE 2013).

Last but not least the conceptual appeal of social worlds and arenas theory lies in its scalability and adaptability to the object of investigation. It can be used to deal with socio-spatially and historically wide-ranging topics and questions as well as spatially and temporally more limited interaction situations. By taking a closer look at the formation of social order in its entanglement of discourses and practices (Strübing 2007), the pragmatist-interactionist theory tradition is highly compatible with poststructuralist and practice-theoretical approaches. Discussions of theory at these intersections are particularly fruitful, raising questions about practice-theoretical inspirations for pragmatist theory-building and about pragmatist inspirations for practice-theoretical work alike (DIETZ, NUNGESSER & PETTENKOFER 2017).

The aims of the bilingual conference are to debate the theory of social worlds and arenas and to collect researchers' hands-on experiences from working with situational analysis. External participants are welcome and will be able to join discussions based on short introductory notes by authors and their commentators. The conference will take place online via zoom. Details will be provided upon registration.

Program

Day 1	09:00h-10:00h	Keynote	<i>Carrie Friese</i> Situational Analysis and Digital Methods
	Break		
	10:15h-11:15h	Panel 1	<i>Marc Bubeck & Bianca Jansky</i> Nicht-Menschliche Akteur*innen in der Situationsanalyse und die Flüchtigkeit von Materialität im Forschungsprozess <i>Fujii, Michi S., Rink, Konstantin & Weber, Joshua</i> Digitale Artefakte in der Situation: Fragen situationsanalytisch ausgerichteter Arbeiten zum Status von Materialität
	Break		
	11:30h-12:30h	Panel 2	<i>Renate Baumgartner</i> Soziale Welten bei der Behandlung von HIV mit Behandlungsoptimierungstools <i>Claudia Glotz, Jana Mikats & Nicoletta Eunicke</i> Analytische Potenziale und Grenzen der Situationsanalyse bei der Erforschung nicht kollektiv organisierter Akteur*innen am Beispiel Kind
	Break		
	14:00h-15:00h	Panel 3 & 4 (parallel)	<i>Tamara Schwertel</i> Chancen der Integration neumaterialistischer Konzepte in die Situationsanalyse am Beispiel des Konzeptes becoming with von Donna Haraway <i>Olaf Tietje</i> Looking for the Bigger Picture. Analysing Social Cohesion through a Mosaic of Social Worlds
<i>Matthias Leger</i> Same but different? The potential of combining practice theory and situational analysis <i>Christian Bueger, Scott Edwards & Maren Hofius</i> The Interaction of communities of practice: Towards a practice theory of global order(ing)			
Day 2	09:00h-10:00h	Panel 5	<i>Anne Cress</i> Zivilgesellschaftliche Repräsentation und Partizipation in der Prostitutions-/Sexarbeitsarena - eine feministisch-kritische Politikfeldanalyse <i>Anke Schad-Spindler, Stefanie Fridrik, Oliver Marchart & Friederike Landau</i> Chasing Urban Cultural Politics and Policymaking Through Social Worlds, Arenas and Situational Analysis

	Break		
10:15h-11:15h	Panel 6 & 7 (parallel)	<i>Ursula Offenberger</i> Situational Analysis in Germany: current and future methodological and practical issues	<i>Sarah B. Evans-Jordan</i> Doing interpretive work with situational analysis: Thinking with social worlds/arenas and boundary objects
		<i>Birte Kimmerle</i> Kontinuierliches Vergleichen im Zeitverlauf mithilfe von Mappingstrategien/Positional Maps: Eine historische und gegenwartsbezogene Analyse der Situation von Gesundheits- und Kinderkrankenpflegekräften in Frühen Hilfen	<i>Sarah Lenz</i> Von sozialen Welten zu Produktionswelten. Ein konzeptueller Vorschlag zur Verknüpfung von der Situationsanalyse mit der Soziologie der Konventionen
	Break		
11:30h-12:30h	Wrap up	All Participants	

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