

The Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS
cordially invites you to its thirty-fourth *Jour fixe* event:

András Vörös:

Subgroup formation in high school:

Social influence and informal status production

Academic symposium

Presenter: András Vörös (Institute for Sociology, CSS HAS)

Discussant: Bálint Néray (Institute for Sociology, CSS HAS)

Abstract

This paper proposes a theoretical framework to explain the formation of subgroups in communities whose members have an opportunity for regular interactions. The central notion of the framework is that people aim to achieve various goals, and while doing so, develop valued perceptions about each other. Networks of valued perceptions represent system of functional interdependencies between community members: they carry information regarding the potential usefulness of peers for the goal achievement of their sender. The perceptions of actors can be influenced in social interactions involving one or several of the other actors. We argue that these mechanisms promote agreement in perceptions and increase the likelihood of future interactions between subsets of actors, leading to the formation of subgroups. In the presented approach, the valued perceptions constitute the system of informal status in the community, which has both a vertical (hierarchy) and a horizontal (specialization) dimension. The informal status of actors is always subject to change in the course of subsequent interactions, and so the presented framework can be labelled as informal status production. The theoretical ideas are elaborated for the context of adolescent communities in high school settings.



Keywords

social networks, adolescent communities, subgroup formation, social influence, status systems

Venue: Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS,
Hegedüs room, Budapest I. Úri u. 49.

Date: 23 April, 2015 (Thursday), 1p.m.