

Abstracts

Torben Jensen

Life Mode and Political Culture

The article displays the arguments for a life-world (Lebenswelt) approach to political culture, which has particular theoretical and methodological consequences. The phenomenological account of how we structure our common sense knowledge helps us understanding how individuals confer meaning upon (political) situations and events.

Svein Østerud

The Theory of Behavior: From Life Mode to Habitus

The main component of Pierre Bourdieu's cultural theory is his theory of practice epitomized by the concept of *habitus*. While habitus may be understood as a development of the concept of life-world in phenomenology, the cultural theory may be understood as an attempt to form a synthesis between Durkheim's objectivistic or structuralist sociology and Weber's subjectivistic or interpretive sociology. With his habitus, each individual constructs significance or meaning through interaction with the surroundings. On the other hand, man's habitus is not primarily an individual but a social or rather class-determined entity.

Gunnar Grendstad og Per Selle

Culture as "Way of Living"

Cultural theory is a recently developed theory in political science drawing inspiration from social anthropology. The typology consists of four cultures: individualism, fatalism, hierarchy and egalitarianism. This theory of constrained relativism deals with endogenous preference formation and contextually repatriates functionalism and rationality. The framework addresses stability and change, and approaches political conflicts by means of comparisons.

Anne B. Sørensen

On the Concept of Life Mode

The concept of life mode is developed in order to interpret the social formation as a system of purposeful practices - life modes. The life modes are rooted in different modes of production - simple commodity production and capitalist mode of production. These life modes interpret everyday life in radically different ways dependent on the specific life mode (culture) in question. The concepts are tools of analysis not empirical categories into which single individuals can be classified.

Carsten Daugbjerg

Danish Industry and the Single Market: Policy Networks in Brussels and Copenhagen

The European Union and its bureaucracy is often seen as a steadily increasing centre of power. Formally, the enactment of the Single European Act in 1985 transferred decision-making power from member states to EU institutions in decision-making relating to the Single Market. Therefore, one might expect that Danish industrial organisations would increase their activities in Brussels. This is, not the case. Danish industry does still prefer to exercise influence on EU policies through the Danish Government. The European channel of influence is, due to its openness, a less attractive channel for Danish industrial interests.

Asbjørn Sonne Nørgaard

Institutions, Politics, and the Rhetoric of Reform: American Business Regulation in the Eighties

In the 1980's governments throughout the West pledged to reform public policies and bureaucracies considered too inefficient and burdensome for their economies. In the USA Ronald Reagan was elected on an explicit anti-government platform. Reagan reduced the regulatory burden by administrative discretion rather than by pursuing legislative reform. The analysis of occupational safety and health regulation during the Reagan and Bush tenures shows that the Reagan legacy has been short-lived.

Dominant theories on regulation are unable to account for the cycle of business regulation during the eighties. Elements from neoinstitutionalism should be incorporated into the existing body of literature on government regulation.