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Status differentiation

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Stellingen

Propositions to accompany the dissertation

STATUS DIFFERENTIATION

New Insights from Agent-Based Modeling and Social Network Analysis

André Grow

1. Beliefs about the abilities and social worth of categories such as man/woman, white/black, and young/old can emerge from face-to-face interaction in task focused groups, even when such beliefs are unsubstantiated. (Chapter 2)
2. If the goal is to avoid the emergence of status beliefs in task focused groups, placing people into large groups – rather than small groups – might be a solution. (Chapter 2)
3. Status beliefs can vary regionally, even if there is no objective variation in abilities and resources that might cause such regional differences. (Chapter 3)
4. Regional variation in status beliefs is more likely to emerge in societies in which people mostly interact with those who live in close physical proximity to them. (Chapter 3)
5. In team settings, people are willing to confer status to those who perform well, especially when their own work benefits from this. (Chapter 4)
6. Existing ability stereotypes can affect people's perceptions of each other, even in contexts in which such stereotypes should have no relevance. (Chapter 5)
7. In Hungary, the common stereotype that women are less competent than men does not exist among pupils. (Chapter 5)
8. “[S]tatus writes group differences such as gender, race, and class-based life style into organizational structures of resources and power, creating durable inequality. Status is thus a central mechanism behind durable patterns of inequality based on social differences.” (*Cecilia Ridgeway*)
9. “What constitutes an explanation of an observed social phenomenon? Perhaps one day people interpret the question, ‘Can you explain it?’ as asking ‘Can you *grow* it?’” (*Joshua Epstein and Robert Axtell*)
10. “The most exiting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not ‘Eureka’ but ‘That’s funny ...’.” (*Isaac Asimov*)