

NGfP CONGRESS 2008

JULY 28-30, BERLIN

MAKE THE MARGINALIZED SPEAK!

The Social Sciences and Possibilities of Political Action

This year's congress of the New German Psychological Society is concerned with the embeddedness of the Social Sciences in people's actual life circumstances. Within that framework it seems to be incredibly important to question the scientific discourse and its claim to be objective and neutral as well as its claim of being able to create ever more new knowledge.

These claims, in actual scientific practice, often lead to coherent definitions that create static explanatory models that reproduce, rather than change the scientific discourse. The problem at hand becomes clear when we envision the fact that this discourse does not stay within the university but also occupies discourses within the social life and therefore actively participates in the societal processes of negotiating meaning. Hence, it seems to be important to focus on the political relevance of Social Science research. For researchers, this means that they cannot simply try to create new knowledge, but must also take into account the political implications of their very research.

To implement change, we have to enable the Social Sciences to capture the plurality of human life and the plurality of meaning making processes by shifting the focus from affirmative research that creates certain explanatory models of how social life actually is, towards an emancipatory aim that politicizes human life and makes the marginalized speak. This necessarily includes the understanding that the marginalization of certain perspectives results from the establishment of coherent explanatory models that produce their hegemony by actively excluding possible counters from the sayable.

In five panels we aim at discussing different marginalized perspectives to find ways to make them speak. This includes reflection on the reproductional processes that enable certain hegemonies, as well as exploration of specific possibilities of action within these hegemonies.

Your contribution is welcomed! Please send an outline of your possible contribution (500 words maximum) to: abstracts@ngfp2008.org. The deadline is June 15.

www.ngfp2008.org/english

Registration Fees

Students	15 €	Other Professions According To Monthly Salary:	
Postdocs	30 €	1000 € per month or less	20 €
Lecturers & Assistant Professors	50 €	1000-2000 € per month	50 €
Full Professors	80 €	more than 2000 € per month	80 €

To register please send an email to: registration@ngfp2008.org