



Szociológiai Szemle 2008/1, 157–158.

ABSTRACTS

THE COORDINATION OF COMMUNICATIVE ACTION

Domonkos Sik

The following essay is aimed at answering two questions. The first one concerns the formal character of the critical basis of the Habermasian social theory. Due to the fact that the Habermasian theory already presupposes a democratic institutional background and certain maxims that can not be deduced from the formal pragmatic analysis of language, I argue that its critical basis contains substantive elements. In the second part of the essay I explain one of these elements. This element can be deduced from an immanent problem of the Habermasian social theory. Habermas introduces the notion of communicative action as the coordinating mechanism of social actions. It is needed only if the cooperation gets stuck because of the actors' different definition of the situation. The communicative action itself is however a social action as well. So the question comes: what mechanism may put it back on track if it gets stuck? With other words: how can the coordination of communicative action be achieved? In default situation the coordination of social actions is assured by the lifeworld, so the problem of coordinating communicative actions is inseparable from the problem of the lifeworld. In *The Theory of Communicative Action* Habermas differentiates the lifeworlds by their level of rationality/openness. Accordingly, the blocking of communicative action may be traced back to the different rationality levels of the actors; and the coordination of communicative action may be described as the elimination of this difference. So I introduce the coordination of communicative action basically as a process of "reflectivization". In the course of the elaboration of the notion of "reflectivization" I take into account Habermas's early and late works as well. Finally using the results of the discourse ethics and the democratic theoretical writings, I conclude that the coordination of communicative action may be described as a relearning of action-coordination on a higher level of moral development.

DIGITAL INEQUALITIES AMONG HUNGARIAN YOUTH

Réka NAGY

The study presents an empirical research carried out among Hungarian young internet users, focusing on digital inequalities. Since earlier researches with similar focus have shown important cognitive-cultural differences in use of the new technologies, the empirical research was amended with two integrating concepts – lifestyle and knowledge styles (cognitive styles). As a result of the erosion of traditional social stratification structures, the diversification of life patterns and of lifestyles, it is presumable that differences in youth's use of technology can be captured to a smaller degree through traditional models, and to a greater degree through models supplemented with lifestyle and cognitive style.





**ECONOMICAL AND SOCIAL CONNECTION CHANGES
IN A GYPSIE VILLAGE**
Tünde VIRÁG

In this case study, I am seeking answers to the following questions: What kind of changes ensue in the society of a ghettoized village when new economic developments occur in the area, and the labour force that had been „redundant” and economically excluded for a decade, is again needed? What kind of new subsistence and employment forms and strategies take shape in the new economic environment? How these affect social relationships in the settlement? Do the new employment opportunities and the financial advancement lead to getting closer to the lower class, or even being included into them, or does a new, specific social establishment take shape, which is only loosely attached to the social majority?

