
Piotr Sztompka, *Social capital. Interpersonal space theory*, Cracovian publisher Znak, Kraków 2016, pp. 384.

Reviewer: Marta Wojciechowska (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland)

The issue of social capital has spread on social sciences ground already since decades. In Poland an interest in this question appeared quite late in the nineties of the 20th century. However, without foundation of trust, social capital is still something missing in Poland. “Social Capital. The interpersonal space theory”, published in May 2016, by Cracovian publisher Znak, is an attempt to fill this gap.

The book was written by a sociologist Piotr Sztompka, author of many publications, such as “Sociology. Social analysis”, “Sociology of social changes”, known not only in Poland, but also abroad. Presented publication, is the first in Polish literature profound analysis of social capital. The book was published in spring 2015, in Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala.

It is very similar to “Trust. The foundation of society” (2007) - previous work of Sztompka, also published by Znak. Considering, that trust is one of determinants of social capital’s existence, this similarity should not be of a surprise. Consistency is also noticeable in analogous, transparent and coherent construction. Thereby, readers have no difficulties with finding specific issues in the book. It enables readers to find particular questions and get back to previous definitions as many times as needed.

Publication is divided into three parts preceded by an introduction. These three parts are: “Next breakthrough in sociology”, “Interpersonal space”, “Social capital”, divided in eleven chapters and detailed subsections.

First part of the book consists of three chapters. The first one points out changes in perceiving the society, which enabled to emerge the so-called third sociology, focused rather on interpersonal relations, than the theory of systems or ontological individualism. Regardless of individual attitude to the society, every activity will be determined by the surroundings. Man is always embedded in some interpersonal space, which determines all social totality of existences. Author draws two ontological theses relating to: relational, interpersonal constitution of society and social subsistence of individual. His priority is the analysis of interpersonal spaces autonomy, its subjectivity and its influence over daily, public, economic and political life.

Next two chapters appeal to the precursors of third sociology, derivative from two different philosophical traditions: European and American. In Europe they stayed under influence of Kantianism, Neokantianism and

phenomenology. Among originators of this tradition we can find Georg Simmel (social geometry), Alfred Schütz (phenomenology of relation) and Norbert Elias (figures and figurations). American tradition was formed mostly by pragmatism and behaviorism. Among its representatives we can name George H. Mead and Huber Blumer (symbolic interaction), Erving Goffman (interactive theatre), Jonathan H. Turner (contexts of social relations) and Randall Collins (interactive chains).

The second part of Piotr Sztompka's publication is focused directly on interpersonal space. He creates general model of interpersonal relations, based on reciprocity, implications, pertinent identification of partner relations, etc. Author specifies also criteria of diversity, which contains stability of relations, frequency of encounters, emotions, level of normative regulation, etc. Furthermore, a reader is acquainted with typical forms of interpersonal relations.

Fifth chapter contains deliberations about moral relations and moral space. First mentioned question, is an impulse dictating to take under consideration the good of others in our behavior. Sztompka counts among them trust, loyalty, reciprocity, solidarity, respect, justice and describes them wider. Afterwards, in the chapter six, he explains functioning of complicated moral relations basing on a friendship and *guanxi* example. Interpersonal space can do various configurations: private, collective, individual, etc. Moreover, it is integrated with social subjectivity, which valuable quality is innovativeness.

The third part of Piotr Sztompka's monograph concerns social capital. Chapter nine describes interpersonal space as a capital. Initially, author tries to familiarize readers with general definition, and afterwards giving specific meaning, narrowed to the social capital. It shows references to the first social capital intellectualizations, such as works of Lynda H. Hanifan, Pierre Bourdieu, James Coleman and Barak Richman. Sztompka points out enormous interest in the matter of social capital in modern world, pleading following research of Robert Putnam, Francis Fukuyama and Alejandro Portes. In two last chapters author presents social capitals benefits and regularities of its functioning.

In the end Piotr Sztompka summarizes all previous deliberations and phrases eight summative theses, embodying the idea of the third sociology.

Repeating after the author, "Social capital" is prescribed for reading to politicians, publicists and responsible citizens, who do not want to become dodgers, but active creators of state community. The reviewed publication is a theoretical study, but the sociologist explains and charts all complicated questions in a way which enables to be understood even by ordinary people. Despite this, the book is not superficial or vague and does not lose its preciseness. Author, explaining some issues, references to the current affairs. He also draws particular attention to the new face of interpersonal space, the virtual space.

Undeniable asset of this work is its structure- the author fluently inducts readers to components of main subject, constantly heading to its portrayal. Sociologist's work carries wide deposits of knowledge. Rich bibliography, containing interesting and innovative resources from the researches of social capital and interpersonal spaces is the best evidence of that. This collection is fortified with a book by a distinguished sociologist, Piotr Sztompka, whose opus is interdisciplinary study of everyday social life's aspects.