Pierre Bourdieu: The Forms of Capital

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Pierre Bourdieu

- ▶ Pierre Bourdieu was born in 1930 in southern France
- ► He received classical philosophical education
- Bourdieu changed relatively soon philosophy for social sciences
- Bourdieu published about thirty books
- ► His work is the result of the synthesis of the knowledge ethnological field research with a theoretical concept
- Structuralism and existentialism Bourdieu rejected
- ▶ Bourdieu is considered as a poststructuralist
- His sociological views were formed of his own experience and life career



Timeline of Pierre Bourdieu

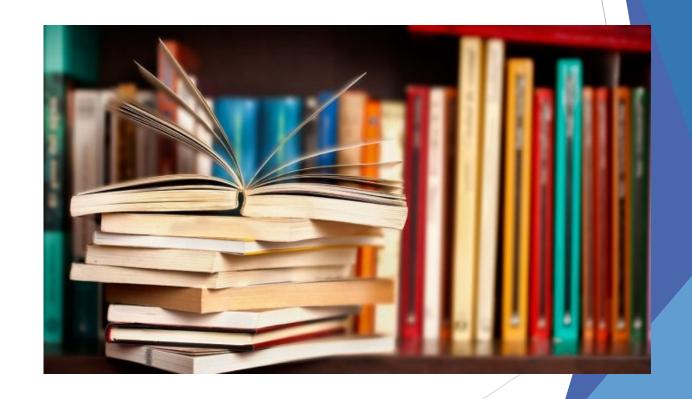
- Bourdieu began his scientific career as an ethnologist of the Maghreb community
- In the 1960s he continued ethnological study of rituals, kinship and social change in Kabyle
- Since 1964 Bourdieu worked as a professor of sociology at the École pratique des hautes études en sciences sociales
- ▶ During the seventies, he continued to research a wide range of interconnected themes, such as culture, class, and power
- In 1975 he founded a periodical *Actes de la Recherche en Sciences Sociales*
- From 1981 until his death in 2002, he worked as a professor of sociology at the College de France

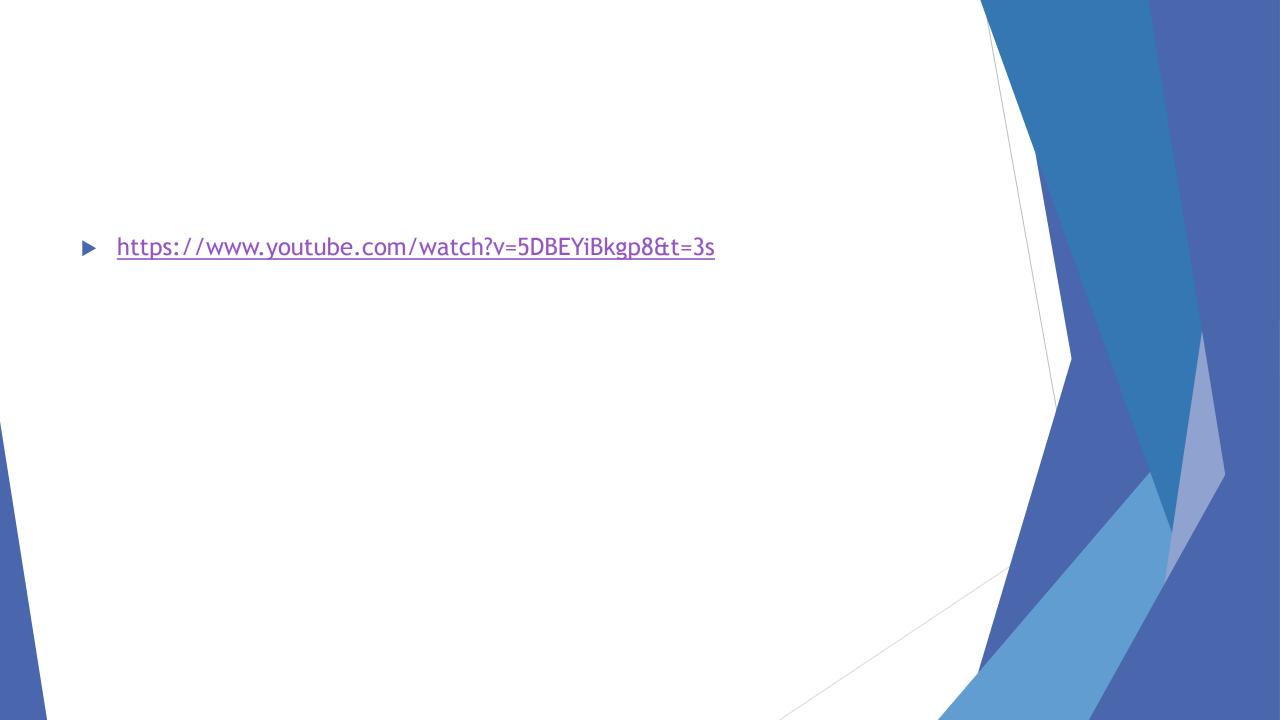
Pierre Bourdieu - Main Ideas

- Bourdieu in his work presents an original synthesis of theory, methodology and epistemology
- Bourdieu says the social world has its own objective and subjective side
- Sociology according Bourdieu is not only a reconstruction of objective relationships, but also researching of the subjective experience and orientation of the participants
- The concept of Bourdieu consists of several basic concepts such as habitus, field, and capital
- ► The term **habitus** indicates to the appearance, the image, the way of expression and the unusualness of the personal style of behavior
- With this concept is related a term of dispositions, which means a tendency to certain behavior
- Practice forming from habitus is realized in a structured framework called a field

The forms of capital

- What is capital?
- Economical capital
- Social capital
- Cultural capital
 - ► The embodied state
 - ► The objectified state
 - ► The institutionalized state





Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste

- Culture anthropological sense
- Cultural capital A person's education (knowledge and intellectual skills) that provides advantage in achieving a higher social-status in society
- Society as a judge
- Class fractions
- Taste

Is the institutionalized state (which includes diploma or degree) important today?

Does society respect more economical or social capital (it means for example relationships)?

Resources

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