

# 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



▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DBEYiBkqp8&t=3s>

# 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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- ▶ RŮŽIČKA, Michal a Petr VAŠÁT. Základní koncepty Pierra Bourdieu: pole - kapitál - habitus. *AntropoWebzin* [online]. 2011 [cit. 2018-04-15]. Dostupné z: <http://www.soc.cas.cz/sites/default/files/publikace/ruzicka-vasat-2-2011.pdf>
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