

Summaries

Aram Ziai

Foucauldian concepts in development theory

The article examines the numerous attempts to usefully employ Foucauldian concepts of power and discourse in an analysis of development policy. Best known among these is the so-called post-development school, whose exaggerations and implausible generalizations can be traced back to an improper use of Foucauldian theory. Other attempts also provide interesting insights while leaving some questions unanswered. Foucauldian concepts in development theory point to the historical contingency of the idea of development as well as to its eurocentric and ideological implications. As yet, however, the relations between the macro-level of development policy and the micro-level of the individual are not sufficiently explored. Therefore, an application of the thus far neglected Foucauldian concept of governmentality on development policy seems promising.

Siegfried Timpf

In the Cross-Lines. Dispositif and Governmentality of Sustainability

The aim of different actors is not the popularization of a transparent concept of Sustainable Development but the construction of a network of meanings in which all of us must move necessarily to be perceived within social discourses at all. The „dispositif“ of Sustainable Development is a net between heterogeneous elements like the reinterpretation of nature as environment or the equity between and in generations. It consists for epistemological purposes of the construction of problems, knowledge-forms and techniques. Thus it enables constructions of truth, power-effects and subjectivations and is at the same time a basis for particular forms of Environment-Governmentality. The latter are designed to change the everyday-life according to the constructed problems, knowledge-forms and techniques. It is suggested to combine the concepts Dispositif and Governmentality to improve analysis and critical faculty.

Susanne Schultz

Neoliberal transformations of international population policies: Interpreting Post-Cairo experiences from a perspective of governmentality

The article discusses the transformation of international population policies after the UN Conference on Population and Development 1994 in Cairo in the context of neoliberal rationalities as they are analysed in governmentality studies. With this perspective it is possible to avoid the false alternative interpreting Post-Cairo-policies

– between the thesis of rupture because of the establishment of the reproductive rights and health paradigm on the one hand and pure continuity of analysing this paradigm as merely external „feminized“ rhetoric on the other. The predominance of a health rationale after Cairo aiming to reduce „risks“ related to pregnancy makes it possible to articulate antinatalist demographic strategies with discourses about individual selfdetermination. By the differentiation of risk factors and risk groups this process of medicalization also opens population policies up for fragmented and flexible strategies corresponding to neoliberal „security policies“ by governmentality studies.

Verónica Schild

Women's Liberty and Social Progress: Feminists, the State, and the Poor in the Making of Neoliberal Governmentality

This paper explores the claim that neo-liberalism is much more than a program of socio-economic policies; it is the new rationality of government, and it is coextensive with state formation and congruent with capitalism's present phase. Relying on an approach influenced by Michel Foucault's notion of governmentality, and by recent attempts to rethink the state in cultural terms, the paper offers a feminist reading of cultural political transformations in Chile. The paper reconstructs the recent history of feminist involvement in institutional transformation in that country's social sector, exploring both discourses and practices in bureaucratic settings. It argues that an earlier feminist preoccupation with the personal empowerment of women, which was part of women's emancipatory struggles, as been reconfigured — with the collaboration of feminists — as techniques and strategies for producing gendered, rational, entrepreneurial actors who are functional to Chile's present development strategy. This amounts to making empowered citizens out of poor women in a broader context of re-regulation of society along the lines of a neo-liberal rationality of government.

Gottfried Oy

From the idea of counter culture to electronic democracy Critical journalism, counter public and the using of new media by protest networks

International protest networks are using modern information and communication technology as means of their activity. Theoretical reflection on the role of this technology and its political background are rare. The idea of a counter public, which spreads suppressed information and leads towards social change, taken from the 1970s, is not adequate anymore. Oy calls for theoretical considerations on the bi-directional modern mass communication and its role for international protest networks.