

Haltung und Handlung



Theorien als Werkzeug Sozialer Arbeit

Workshop auf der 5. Merseburger Tagung
zur systemischen Sozialarbeit

Zentrale Fragen

- Was verbindet Theorie und Praxis?
- In welchem Verhältnis stehen Theorie und Praxis?
- Welchen Einflüssen unterliegt die eigene Haltung?
- Wie führt Haltung zu Handlung?

Theorien: eine Nemesis?

Vorlesung, Mittwochs, 8:00: “Theorien der Sozialen Arbeit” bei Prof. Engelke:
“???”

Im Vorstellungsgespräch:

“Ja, Frau Taube, dann hätte ich da noch eine Frage: nach welchen Theorien richten Sie ihr Handeln aus?”

Jahre später, unter Kollegen:

“Oh nein, lass mich bloß mit dem Theoriegequatsche in Ruhe... für sowas hab ich echt keine Zeit bei all dem Stress!”

Was ist eine Theorie?

Angebot einer Definition:

“Theories are **constructed through a systematic process of inductive and deductive reasoning** in our attempts to answer “why?” (Dubin, 1969: 9) suggested that theories are used for the pursuit of two distinct goals in the scientific study of human behavior: **explanation and prediction**. To understand theory construction, *explanation* and *prediction*, it is important to understand the **differences between empirical structures and theoretical structures**. Empirical structures are those that we experience through our senses, in our environment. Theoretical structures are those that we “*construct in our mind’s eye to model the empirical system*” (emphasis added) (Dubin, 1969: 9). In addition, **theories prescribe ideal goals** for human functioning and **offer guidelines** for therapeutic and social action designed to help people achieve their goals. Thus a **theoretical structure is an abstraction**; it is both a description and a generalization **that stems from our experiences**. As a result, the **constructs, or concepts, of a theory become the tools** with which we study human behavior and attempt to influence it **in social work practice**. (...) Without theoretical structures, it is difficult to understand and order information about the world around us; without empirical structures, we have no basis for theory.” (Dubin, 1969; Robbins, 2010)

Welche Theorien sind relevant für die Soziale Arbeit?

Theories (Robins et al. 2010: 1)

- explain and predict human behaviour from micro to macro levels
- explain and predict the impact of larger social structures on human behaviour
- explain and predict social problems
- guide social work practice
- inform social policy
- direct social work research
- give credibility to a profession
- are socially constructed and ideological

“Theories help us conceptualize how and why people behave the way they do and help us to understand the contextual nature of behavior. (...) Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the theories we use as social workers shape the way in which we view our clients. They shape the questions we ask, the assessments we make, and ultimately the interventions we choose. We believe, therefore, that it is important for social workers to expand their theoretical knowledge base and to develop a broader understanding of human behavior.” (Robbins et al. 2010: 4)

In die Offensive!

- **Schulkonzept**

“Modellschule Pestalozzi”

- **Projektkonzept des Vereins**

“Erleben, Arbeiten und Lernen” in Finnland

Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit !

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