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Bourdieu's cleft sociology of science

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Abstract

The paper examines Pierre Bourdieu's extensive writings on the production of scientific knowledge. The study shows that Bourdieu offered not one but two - significantly different - approaches to scientific knowledge production, one formulated in his theoretical, or programmatic, writings on the subject, the other developed in his empirical writings. Addressing the question as to the relevance of Bourdieu's work for science studies, the analysis argues that the former of these two approaches is at once very visible in Bourdieu's work but characterized by limitations from the standpoint of scholarship in STS, whereas the latter approach is less conspicuous but of broader empirical value. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)