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Author

STÖCKELOVA, Tereza

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Abstract

The changes in and transformations of academic institutions and practices we are currently witnessing are complex. I argue that there are no clear-cut historical transitions between different regimes of science, such as from the 'public knowledge regime' to 'academic capitalism'. Drawing upon John Law's analysis of 'modes of ordering', I investigated the multiplicity of academic realities at a leading social science department at a university in the Czech Republic. Using ethnographic data generated during my fieldwork in the department in 2006-2008, I explore how the modes of ordering operate and how they are strategically mobilised by different actors. In contrast to Law, I particularly focus on the interfaces and switches between modes, where, I observe, power is prominently enacted. I conclude by arguing that resistance to the rising managerial governance of universities cannot simply resort to citing the 'traditional' academic values of autonomy, vocation and internal quality but must also challenge those values. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)