



SÉMINAIRE « PRATIQUES ÉDUCATIVES PARENTALES ET INÉGALITÉS »

“Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life”

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1^{ère} séance : mardi 19 mai 2009, 9h30-11h30, salle Goguel bis

Résumé

The intergenerational transmission of advantage is an undeniable feature of American society for many, but not all, children. Nevertheless, the day-to-day mechanisms through which these processes unfold remain unclear. Annette Lareau's book Unequal Childhoods draws on ethnographic research of families with children 10 years of age to suggest that there is a different cultural logic of child rearing by social class. African-American and white middle-class parents see their children as a developmental project (“concerted cultivation”) while working-class and poor parents provide for their children but then presume that the children will spontaneously grow and thrive (“accomplishment of natural growth”). In this talk Lareau discusses the ways in which social class shapes child rearing patterns for white and African-American families in terms of time use, language use, and interaction with institutions. In addition, she shares the results of follow-up interviews ten years after the original study when the youth were 19 and 20 years of age. In a continuation and extension of earlier patterns, middle-class parents' practices, particularly their accumulation of detailed information about schooling, development of independent sources of information about colleges, and view of themselves as a “co-pilot” in the college admission process assist young adults in complying with standards of dominant institutions. The study suggests that empirical studies of cultural capital should be extended beyond high-culture practices to include informal knowledge of higher education. It also suggests that the study of the intergenerational transmission of advantage would be enhanced by a closer examination of cultural practices of daily life.

Présentation de l'auteur

http://www.bsos.umd.edu/socy/People/Faculty/CV%2B%2B/alareau_cv.pdf

Annette LAREAU is the Stanley I. Sheerr Term Professor in the Social Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. She teaches in the Department of Sociology. She is the author of Home Advantage which won the Willard Waller Award for Distinguished Scholarship by the American Sociological Association. She also is the author of Unequal Childhoods; it won the best book award for the American Sociological Association Section on Family, Childhood and Youth, and Culture (co-winner). With Jeff Shultz, she is the editor of Journeys Through Ethnography: Realistic Accounts of Fieldwork. Recently, with Dalton Conley, she co-edited the book Social Class: How Does it Work? This book, which has original contributions by John Goldthorpe, Erik Olin Wright, Michael Hout, Mary Pattillo, and others students of social class, was published by the Russell Sage Foundation in 2008. Currently she is collaborating with Elliot Weininger on a mixed-method study. It examines how parents with young children decide where to live and includes observations in three elementary schools, interviews with parents, and interviews with realtors. Theoretically much of her work is an effort to apply the conceptual ideas of the late Pierre Bourdieu to the day-to-day interactional rituals in American daily life.

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