

„Educational Decisions and Inequality in Educational Opportunity in Higher Education“

Volker Stocké

Several educational decisions in higher education strongly affect individual life chances and the provision of collective goods. These encompass among others the decision to enroll in higher education, the selection among and the change between fields of study as well as the decision to completely dropout from university. All these decisions are found to be substantially differentiated according to class of origin, gender and migration background. The workshop presents and discusses in the first part theoretical approaches – as Rational-Choice-, Social Reproduction- and Integration-Theory, which aim to explain socially differentiated educational decisions in general and in particular those in the field of higher education. In the second part of the workshop, groups of participants will be guided to develop questionnaire items for testing the hypotheses derived from the different decision theories. The results will briefly be presented and discussed.