Essays on individuality and individualization: the ways and means in which they are detached and involved during modern life

This essay collection is comprised of six previously unpublished essays. All of the essays deal with the following questions: the manifestation of individuality and individualization and the ways and means in which they are detached and involved.

The framework is based upon the time in which we now live, which is dealt with using classical perspectives. These perspectives are used in order to reflect the present day; Georg Simmel and Norbert Elias from a sociologist point of view and philosopher Emmanuel Levinas from a philosophical.

The use of the classics for perspective and the essay format both interact and are interdependent upon one another. The research method used - the essay format - can be seen in modern-day diagnostics. The sociological critical essay is embodied in interdisciplinary research, which deals with literature, philosophy, art and science.

The use of the essay format as the research method aspired to prevent what can be seen as objectionable prevailing thought and conformity. With the help of the classics, the essays aspired to bring to light four perspectives. The first is the perspective of the past, which reveals classical thought through the interpretation of their own times. The second perspective is the present-day, using classical times as a point of departure. In this way, the classics aid us in seeing our own times and its phenomena. The third is to look at our own times diagonally, disengaging from current discussion and the need to discover, in the use of professional jargon, the origin and points of fusion of the terminology. The fourth was detachment, estimation and the attempt to see things in a fresh way. The latter two goals are connected to Norbert Elias's concept of involvement-detachment as a cognitive device.

The essay collection brings forth three themes concerning individuality and individualization. The first is the orientation framework of the perspective of the individual. The question arose whether the discussion of individuality and individualization has come to the stage where a centuries old anthropocentric orientation is to be seen as a serious challenger? It remains to be seen whether these are based on biocentric orientation or some other framework. The second theme revolves around the question of whether we have come to the stage where individuality and individualization are involved in an entirely different fashion. One perspective which becomes apparent in this essay collection is Emmanuel Levinas's idea of ethics as the first philosophy, which is the foundation of individualization. The third and central result is that the present-day horizontal can be looked at in a different light and demands a new orientation. What and how can individuality and individualization "be", if and when the framework becomes contingent and ambivalent?

Keywords: individuality, individualization, social, the civilizing process

Avainsanat-Nyckelord-Keywords
individuality - individualization - social theories
civilizing process

Säilytyspaikka-Förvaringsställe-Where deposited

Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-Additional information