Pierre Bourdieu has contended that sociologists’ privilege is not to be placed above those whom they classify, it is to know how and in what way sociologists are classified. Here, an attempt is made to apply Bourdieu’s ‘methods’ to Bourdieu himself through looking at his intellectual biography, addressing Bourdieu’s place in the field of *hominès academici* and how his place is reflected in his sociological thought, particularly in his notion of ‘reflexive sociology’.

Keijo Rahkonen also compares Pierre Bourdieu’s and Friedrich Nietzsche’s conceptions of taste. The thesis proposed is that there is an interesting resemblance between Bourdieu and Nietzsche in such matters as taste, struggle, ressentiment, and more generally in matters of power.

By focusing on certain themes and key concepts in Bourdieu’s work, such as domination, field and distinction, as well as on experimental trials inspired by Bourdieu, this book attempts to provide critical ouvertures – openings and introductions – to gain a better understanding of Bourdieu’s oeuvre. These concepts are both critically evaluated as well as elaborated throughout the study. The applicability of a number of them is also discussed and tested in case studies concerning the field of intellectuals in Finland and the Finnish new middle class.

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