

Abstracts

Trust

Zoltán Grünhut: The Theory of Trust Towards Fellow Human Beings and its Empirical Measurement

Abstract: The introduction to this thematic section argues that trust towards fellow human beings, i.e. individual agents' trust towards unknown others is a notion aimed to address and frame that fundamental phenomenon, which is in the heart of trust research. The introduction briefly summarizes the authors' previous findings related to this topic, while it also outlines the current papers' objectives.

Keywords: trust towards fellow human beings, theory, measurement

Zoltán Grünhut and Ákos Bodor: Trust Towards Fellow Human Beings

Abstract: The paper outlines the theoretical framework of trust towards fellow human beings. The addressed phenomenon is well-described in trust research since trust towards unknown others is one of the most often examined problem in the field, both conceptually and empirically. In spite of that nevertheless it is justified to revise the original theoretical framings of trust towards people in general as the progression of late modern tendencies and the further acceleration of globalization are reshaping our world and our experiences with and relatedness to fellow human beings. The paper starts with situational trust literature and the proposed criticism of the notion of trust towards unknown others, which is considered in these studies as something highly doubtful or even meaningless. The argument reviews the main theories of situational trust and it sheds light on the problematic interpretation of and ill-founded linkage between showing trust and feeling trust in these framings. Based on this critical reading, the paper states that if the conceptual components of situational trust are carefully considered, then these theories, of course, unwittingly, reaffirm that, indeed, individuals relate themselves to other people in general, in a more or less trusting sense. The second part of the paper comprehensively describes the various dimensions and specificities of this emotional relatedness of the one to his/her fellow human beings, the development

and formation of this disposition, as well as the impacts of this subjective stance on one's personality, understandings, and praxes, among them the routinized practice of showing trust. The last section of the paper draws attention to the fundamental feature of trust towards fellow human beings that is transcending the sense of belonging to sameness by recognizing togetherness with others' otherness. This – often disregarded – component of trust towards people in general gains growing theoretical importance in our time; it is the foundation of the concept of trust towards fellow human beings.

Keywords: trust, distrust, fellow human beings, sameness, otherness

Ákos Bodor, Márk Hegedus and Zoltán Grunhut: Trust Towards Fellow Human Beings in Hungary According to the Most Commonly Applied Survey Tools

Abstract: Based on various databases from a longer time frame, the paper reviews the most commonly applied survey tools used for the measurement of trust towards fellow human beings. The well-known international surveys aim to address the phenomenon of trust towards unknown others in different ways. These approaches are focused on certain distinct dimensions of the common theoretical background. However, all of the examined survey tools in this paper are considered as steady and refined questionnaire techniques in the literature. Therefore, a comparative analysis of these survey items helps to better understand their functionality, as well as the results they provide. The review of the examined databases draws special attention to Hungary in order to better describe the Hungarian trends and specificities of trust towards fellow human beings.

Keywords: trust, survey tools, international databases, Hungary

Ákos Bodor, Márk Hegedus and Zoltán Grunhut: Content Validity of the Standard Trust Variable

Abstract: The paper critically revises the most often applied survey tool of trust measurement, the so-called standard trust variable. The critical approach is focused on the aspects of content validity. As regards to the full sample, as well as on individual level, it compares the results measured by the standard trust variable to data obtained from other well-known survey tools of trust measurement, such as the trust radiuses, the ANES trust questionnaire, and the trust index. Of course, such a comprehensive and unprecedented content validity of the standard trust variable could be done only on primer survey data acquired for this purpose. The main finding of the paper is that the standard trust variable is imprecise in its identification of trusting respondents, insofar as compares to results of other survey tools a significant number of these 'self-reported high-trusters' turned out to be rather distrusters.

Keywords: standard trust variable, trust radiuses, ANES trust questionnaire, trust index, content validity

Ákos Bodor, Zoltán Grünhut and Dávid Erát: *The Interrelationship Between Trust and Trust Functions. A New Approach for the Measurement of Trust Towards Fellow Human Beings*

Abstract: The present paper's aim is to propose a new approach for measurement of trust towards fellow human beings. In the literature, there are numerous criticisms of the empirical identification and interpretation of trust towards unknown others. Studies that try to reflect on these critical remarks by different kinds of refinements usually address only particular issues regarding to survey tools & techniques, operationalization, and statistical methods, without more comprehensive revisions. This paper, on the contrary, strives to support its reflections on how to reconsider trust measurement by theoretical contributions. In order to achieve that, the proposed argument invokes Piotr Sztompka's concept (1999) about the culture of trust, and his distinction between trust and trust functions. At first, the paper elaborates on how the interlinked consideration of trust and its certain micro- and macro-level manifestations (identified as trust functions by Sztompka) can help to better understand the phenomenon of trust towards fellow human beings. Then, in the second part, a comparative statistical analysis describes a more complex empirical framing of trust based on open-source databases from the European Social Survey.

Keywords: trust, trust functions, Sztompka, culture of trust, ESS

Bath-Culture and Literature

Dániel Szabolcs Radnai: *The Poetics and Sociology of the Bath-letter Genre in 18-19th Century Hungarian Literature*

Abstract: The article is an attempt to explore the genre of *bath-letter*, conceptualized as a peculiar literary form of 19th century Hungarian literary history emerging in the era of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. This literary form, which developed in the characteristic bath-culture (*Badekultur*) within the borders of the Habsburg Empire, transferred to the mass press in the 19th century and has become an astonishingly popular press genre, but precisely because of this, its medial environment (and the devaluation of epistle) could not gain a great prestige among literary genres. Nevertheless, style, "language" and formal characteristics of the bath-letters have appeared in Hungarian prose in the long 19th century. Firstly, I show the main formal- and substantial attributes of this genre and its Hungarian classics (József Gvadányi, count József Dessewffy). This is followed by arguing the importance of the 19th journalism bath-letters in the history of ideas and media history, also referring to the parody of this genre and literary style by the example of Kálmán Mikszáth.

Keywords: Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, bath-letter, press history, travel writing, 19th century

Review

Gergely Szabó: Lessons Learnt and Dilemmas in the Study of the Language of the Hungarian Capital

Abstract: How do people talk in Budapest? This was the question that preoccupied a few researchers at the Institute of Linguistics in the mid-1980s, and their joint endeavor created the Budapest Sociolinguistic Interview, a research project that lasted for two and a half decades. This project has been reflected in the volume published in 2021 edited by Miklós Kontra and Anna Borbély. In this book review, I will show to whom this volume is addressed and what its significance is. The Budapest Sociolinguistic Interview was an interdisciplinary project which, like its predecessors in sociolinguistics inspired by urban dialectology, aimed to describe the spoken language of a city, Budapest, according to sociological factors. The reviewed work records the uses made so far of the spoken language corpus from this large-scale research at different levels of the language, including phonological, grammatical, syntactic, lexical, stylistic and discourse analysis studies. The content, however, goes well beyond these linguistic analyses, addressing both methodological and research ethical issues. The book's DVD attachment provides an insight into the audio materials and their transcriptions. In my review, I argue that the reader will find a work that can be of interest to linguists as well as to the representatives of other fields of humanities and social sciences. However, it does have its shortcomings, and one of these is the lack of reflection on how the political, social and scientific contexts have changed over the past three and a half decades that may (or may not) allow the research to be reproduced.

Keywords: Budapest talk, Budapest Sociolinguistic Interview, Miklós Kontra, language variation, sociolinguistics, urban dialectology