

Review of: "On the ongoing need for naturalistic philosophy to interpret what occupational science is doing"

Alfonso Di Prospero

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper is very interesting. I cannot present properly a review, since it is not a subject within my field of study, but I hope I can give some suggestions. The main reason of interest - I retain - is in the fact that the topic requires that we find a way to balance the different epistemological constraints of "first" (subjective) and "third" (objective) person perspective. In whatever sense of the word, human "occupations" cannot be understood without a phenomenological approach, but many crucial "objective" processes underlie their dynamics. I can suggest to give more weight to a functionalist approach (Merton, Luhmann), where the first person perspective is present (even if Luhmann himself develops his thought in a different direction) but it interacts in complex ways with the third person one.

The fact that the science of occupation is at a crossroad between very different methodological approaches, can make difficult to obtain satisfying results. Maybe a better clarification concerning the methodological principles can be a pre-condition for subsequent analyses.

In sociological functionalism the "manifest" dimension can be seen as the place of subjective "illusions", but also - in a very different guise - as the context where the subjective experience (with its joy and pain), namely what is important for us, is given.

Of course my remarks are very schematic and maybe they could appear clearer only with some other considerations, but this could bring the risk of overlapping my own epistemological view above the authors' one.

In any case their perspective of study deserves to be developed