

ProtoSociology
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and Project
Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main
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Project: Symposium

Social Ontology
Collective Intentionality and Group Agents
Raimo Tuomela
Oxford University Press, New York, USA

Description of the project

Raimo Tuomela has promoted the account of collective intentionality for decades and has advocated group-based theorizing making use of the I-mode/we-mode distinction. His pioneering work has helped considerably to further recent interest in the field. One of the central aims of his work is to investigate the conceptual resources and the philosophical presuppositions of sociality both from the individual's and the collective's point of view (thus from the *shared point of view*).

In Tuomela's recent account social groups are viewed as functional group agents to which mental states predicates can be attributed by the group members and others. Such group agents are not persons and they do not possess intrinsic (but only extrinsic) intentionality. They basically consist of the group members and their interrelations (and, e.g, in the case of organizations also of necessary material "tools"). Tuomela concentrates in his theory on the full shared we-perspective of the members of groups. Accordingly, the social domain is constituted by asmembers and non-

members of groups, their roles, status functions, and expectations. Group membership presupposes mutual knowledge of membership.

The social domain involves both an objective and a subjective ontological aspect. Complex group agents (e.g. corporations and political states) involve some fictitious (e.g. law-based) features in addition to real, objective ones.

In his recent work Tuomela has extended his earlier research to cover a field of sociality including collective intentionality, cooperation, power, social institutions, collective responsibility, and socio-cultural evolution. Philosophical theorizing concerning the aforementioned notions of course is significant not only for the philosophy of sociality, social science, and political and moral philosophy but also for cognitive science.

Topics of interest

Tuomela has extended his view in *Social Ontology: Collective Intentionality and Group Agents* with two analyses:

First, he focuses on collective intentionality and social ontology especially in the case of we-mode groups, thus functional group agents; here a central issue is the distinction between epistemic objectivity and ontological subjectivity of the social domain.

Second, the function of authority and hierarchy in communication and cooperation; here the question is the role of elites and authorized leaders in the social domain – the issues of group agents and collective reasoning.

The Symposium aims at analysing in detail the aforementioned issues from different perspectives. Comparisons with John Searle's theory of society are welcomed.

Editors of the volume

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Comments

Raimo Tuomela will give comments to the contributions.

ProtoSociology-background

ProtoSociology has realized since the 1990s years a project on social
philosophy in the contemporary scene. From the project are published:

Sara Rachel Chant, Frank Hindriks, and Gerhard Preyer Eds.
From Individual to Collective Intentionality
New Essays
Oxford University Press, New York 2014

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/academic/society/sociology/9780199936502.do#.UIRaO1OOBCM>

ProtoSociology
 Vol. 18,19/2003
 Understanding the Social II
 Philosophy of Sociality
 Edited by R. Tuomela, G. Preyer, G. Peter (double Vol.)
<http://www.protosociology.de/Volumes/Volume18.html>

Vol. 16/2002
 Understanding the Social
 New Perspectives from Epistemology
<http://www.protosociology.de/Volumes/Volume16.html>

Gerhard Preyer
 Intention and Practical Thought
 Humanities Online, Frankfurt a. M.
<http://www.amazon.de/Intention-Practical-Thought-Gerhard-Preyer/dp/3941743090>

Gerhard Preyer
 What is wrong with Rejectionists?
 in: Interpretation, Sprache und das Soziale
 Humanities Online, Frankfurt a. M.
http://www.amazon.de/Interpretation-Sprache-das-Soziale-Philosophische/dp/3941743139/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1379516924&sr=8-1&keywords=Preyer%2C+Interpretation

On R. Tuomelas account:

G. Preyer, “Kollektive Intentionalität”
 in: *Rolle, Status, Erwartungen und Soziale Gruppe. Mitgliedschaftstheoretische Reinterpretationen*, Springer/VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, Wiesbaden 2012
<http://www.springer.com/springer+vs/soziologie/book/978-3-531-17731-1>

On an overview about the accounts of contemporary social philosophy and social ontology:

Sara Rachel Chant, Frank Hindriks, Gerhard Preyer
 “Introduction Collective Intentionality and Collective Rationality: Beyond the Big Four and the Big Five”

in: From Individual to Collective Intentionality New Essays, Edited by Sara Rachel Chant, Frank Hindriks, and Gerhard Preyer

Deadline for incoming articles

September 1, 2014

Publisher

The project is planned as a vol. of ProtoSociology.

Attached

Social Ontology Collective Intentionality and Group Agents
Raimo Tuomela
Oxford University Press, New York, USA

Guidelines for Contributors

<http://www.protosociology.de/Guidelines.html>