

2025年度

大学院文学研究科博士課程後期3年の課程入学試験

(冬期・一般選抜) 問題

筆記試験 社会学 専攻分野

試験開始の合図があるまで、この問題冊子を開いてはいけない。

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筆記試験 (社会学 専攻分野)

以下の英文を読み、次の問1～5に答えなさい (解答欄は英文の後にある)。

問1 下線部(a)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問2 下線部(b)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問3 下線部(c)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問4 Giddens (1984), Barnes (2000), Emirbayer and Mische (1998)において agency はそれぞれどのようなものととらえられているか、本文に即して説明しなさい。

問5 本文の内容を踏まえて、structure と agency の関係について、あなた自身の考えを述べなさい。

The notion of structure has many definitions, not all of them compatible with a processual view, even in life course theory. For instance, Alwin (1995) defined social structure as ‘a set of opportunities and constraints within networks of roles, relationships, and communication patterns, which are relatively patterned and persistent.’ (a) The emphasis here was on stability and not on change. The definition thus showed resemblance to many others in the general sociological literature that often drew on functionalist theory and saw structure as a kind of grid or skeleton upon which social processes unfold. Anthony Giddens (1984), also critical of a functionalist approach, gave the following definition of the term, ‘Structure thus refers, in social analysis, to the structuring properties which make it possible for discernible similar social practices to exist across varying spans of time and space and which lend them ‘systemic’ form.’ (b) What set Giddens’ approach apart from many others in general sociology in the mid-1980s was his underlining of the temporal and spatial aspects of social structure and thus its transient properties, albeit without emphasizing structure as history, as conveyed in Mills’ conceptualization.

Agency, biography and individual are terms that have different connotations but are nevertheless often used interchangeably in life course discussions. (c) Whereas the term individual is intuitively understood, agency and biography demand closer definition. Agency is associated with action; individual purposive action. Biography is thought of as a story or narrative about an individual’s

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life course. However, these terms not only differ in definitions, they are also associated with different theoretical traditions that have been influential in various historical periods (Giddens 1984; Mills 1940).

Giddens' (1984) definition of agency has been much cited: it 'refers not to the intentions people have in doing things but their capability of doing those things in the first place (which is why agency implies power)' (Giddens 1984). Barry Barnes (2000) was critical of many of the agency definitions provided, Giddens' included. He thus said of the concept that: 'Agency' is said to denote the independent power of the individual, not in relation to rules, or cultures, or anything at all, but in relation to whatever might be cited as a possible constraint upon her.' He bemoaned the dualism associated with the distinction between agency and structure,

The relationship between 'the individual' and 'society' or 'social structure', has been addressed without proper regard for social interaction, with the result that 'society' itself has been conceived in unduly individualistic terms and the understanding of its components has been marked by attention to the 'subjective' and the 'objective' at the expense of the inter-subjective. (Barnes 2000, p. x)

Agency is a complex term and has been widely debated in sociology. Barnes (2000) stem from a period during which there was much discussion about the individualization thesis and little attention to structural, or historical, features of society. He dismissed a simplistic view of this notion that merely suggested the independent power of individuals. In doing this he was highly critical of the premises upon which the individualization thesis rested. He was likewise critical of rational choice theory and the idea that individuals are single, isolated entities operating from rational motives in a calculative manner. In a discussion about how individual motivations can be understood in relation to agency, Barnes drew heavily on a paper Mills published in 1940. Here Mills discussed different ways of approaching and discussing motives for action and he described how in different times and societies varying vocabularies—sets of terms and concepts—were accepted as standard for explaining motives. He concluded that in order to make sense of these in a sociological way, 'What is needed is to take all these *terminologies* of motive and locate them as *vocabularies* of motive in historic epochs and specified situations. Motives are of no value apart from the delimited societal situations

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for which they are the appropriate vocabularies.’ Mills’ sensitivity to historical context and the variability over time in what terms and concepts were deemed acceptable in explanations of social phenomena, be they motives or other notions, inspired Barnes’ discussion of agency. This way of thinking about sociological terms is helpful in many instances.

Emirbayer and Mische (1998) took Mead’s temporal and relational thinking as their starting point in a discussion about the notion of agency in sociological theory. They did this because it is, ‘the work of George Herbert Mead that offers us the most compelling tools for overcoming the inadequate conceptions of agency in both rational choice and norm-oriented approaches.’ Based on pragmatist thought they defined agency as,

The temporally constructed engagement by actors of different structural environments—the temporal-relational contexts of action—which, through the interplay of habit, imagination, and judgment, both reproduces and transforms those structures in interactive response to the problems posed by changing historical situations. (p. 970)

They provided this definition in relation to different temporal orientations of agency in their discussion of ‘analytical dimensions of agency rather than action’s structural contexts’ (Emirbayer and Mische 1998). This definition of agency is helpful in discussions of the concept in relation to biographical research because of its sensitivity to temporality.

出典 : Nilsen, Ann, 2023, *Biographical Life Course Research: Studying the Biography-History Dynamic*, Palgrave Macmillan, pp5-8. (一部改変)

問1

問2

問3

問4

(次頁に続く)

問5