The Laws of the Phenomena of Society. How Would Weber and Durkheim Have Responded to John Stuart Mills Famous Quote?

By Johannes Lenhard

Grin Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 12 pages. Essay aus dem Jahr 2012 im Fachbereich Pdagogik - Wissenschaft, Theorie, Anthropologie, Note: 66, University of Cambridge, Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: The Laws of the phenomena of society are, and can be, nothing but the laws of the actions and passions of human beings . . . Men are not, when brought together, converted into another kind of substance (John Stuart Mill). Compare and contrast how Weber and Durkheim might have responded to this statement. What John Stuart Mill means seems straightforward: society functions as a unidirectional interplay of individuals. The rules, that govern those individuals in isolation also dominate in situations of collective character. Mill expresses a deep belief in the overarching importance of the individual in comparison to collectives that in turn do not change the actors behaviour. When we place Mill in his liberal and utilitarian context, this opinion does not surprise; for him, self-interest seemed to rule both the individual and society. To put it crudely: individual society. Contrasting the laws of the phenomena of society with the laws of the actions and passions of human beings, the main difference lies in the society-individual dichotomy, i. e. the...

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