

## **Bourdieu**

### **A Theory of Practice, Subjectivity and ..**

Generative structuralism =

Practice = Habitus + Capital + Field

Habitus:

Structured and durable dispositions based on embodiment (hexis):  
ascribing to a theory of socialization

### **.. Domination**

‘[...] the differences between modes of domination lies in the degree of objectification of capital. Social formations in which relations of domination are made, unmade and remade in and through personal interactions contrast with those in which such relations are mediated by objective, institutionalised mechanisms such as the ‘self-regulated’ market, the educational system or the legal apparatus, where they have the permanence and opacity of things and lie beyond the reach of individual consciousness and power.’ (PB)

- Determinations of social action
- Bypassing consciousness

## **Symbolic power (non-coercive)**

### **Depends on misrecognition (concealment) and recognition (legitimacy)**

“.. it is useful to remember, without turning power into a ‘circle whose centre is everywhere and nowhere’, which would be to dissolve it in yet another way, we have to be able to discover it in places where it is least visible, where it is most completely misrecognized – and thus, in fact, recognized” (PB)

“The dominant culture .. contributes to the legitimation of the established order by establishing distinctions (hierarchies) and legitimating these distinctions. The dominant culture produces this ideological effect by concealing the function of division beneath the function of communication” (PB)

### ***Depends on self-domination:***

“Symbolic power is that invisible power which can be exercised only with the complicity of those who do not want to know that they are subject to it or even that they themselves exercise it” (PB) ->

***Unconscious self-subjectification = Self-domination***

## Freedom / Resistance

Kantian conception of freedom:

- Consciousness:  
Where power is rejected = the subject's conscious doubt / rejection of doxa and the rejection of contemporary symbolic systems of classification
- Autonomy:  
Where social determinations and necessities cease their grip / are incomplete
- All other forms of "free" practices are really an expression of a misrecognised domination!!!!
- Resistance is always possible:  
Belonging to a field by definition implies that one is capable of producing effects in it, BUT
- Depends upon the habitus of the individual (inculcation of doxa)

## **Foucault**

### **Power**

- There is no such thing!
- A relationship

‘[...] what defines a relationship of power is that it is a mode of action that does not act directly and immediately on others. Instead, it acts upon their actions: an action upon an action, on possible or actual future or present actions.’

- De-centered (non-subjectivist)
- Preconditioned on knowledge – but cannot be subsumed to it
- Often – but not always – productive
- Preconditioned on freedom – the possibility to resist

‘A power relationship can only be articulated on the basis of two elements [...]: that ‘the other’ (the one over whom power is exercised) is recognised and maintained to the very end as a subject who acts; and that, faced with a relationship of power, a whole field of responses, reactions, results, and possible inventions may open up.’ (MF)

## Freedom

- Freedom is not the same as autonomy
- Autonomy as a power-vacuum does not exist
- Autonomy is a practice: a device for the interlinking of governmental and ethical practices

## Ethics

- The self's work on itself
- The concrete and only being of freedom

Domination	Liberation
Power	Freedom

## Domination

‘When an individual or social group succeeds in blocking a field of power relations, immobilising them and preventing any reversibility of movement by economic, political, or military means, one is faced with what may be called a state of domination.’ (MF)

## A schematic overview

<b>Power</b>	Bourdieu	Foucault
Relational	Yes, but also possessive	Only
Derivation	Yes, from capital	No
Knowledge / Symbolic system	Ensuring legitimacy	Generating effects of power
Mechanism	Concealment	Visibility
Effect	Repressive	Repressive AND Productive

<b>Freedom</b>	Bourdieu	Foucault
Ontology	Kantian / abstract	The self's practices on itself
Possibility of resisting	Always, but depends on habitus	If not => state of domination / cancelling of power
Autonomy	Distanciation from determinations	Practice of freedom AND power
Consciousness	Reflecting / uncovering power	A contingent product of the human sciences enabling power
Danger	At times fake: Self-domination	Always correlation with schemes of power