



Can the Science of Associations Replace Sociology?

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Abstract

The subject of this text is the attempt to read the basic argument of philosopher Bruno Latour, who is interested in sociology, reflected in the title of his book titled *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network Theory*, within our conceptual framework that we have constructed in the light of the terminological concepts of mainstream sociology. The purpose of the text is two-fold. The first objective is to identify the common and different aspects of the meanings that both Latour and mainstream sociology attribute to the subject and basic concepts of sociology. The second objective is to point out that the difference is not a threat to the sustainability of sociology as a branch of science, but on the contrary, it is an opportunity for sociology to develop and continue its existence. The approach taken to achieve the first objective involves comparing the meanings Latour attributes to the words *socius*, *association*, *social*, and *sociology*, based on his own statements, with the meanings attributed to these concepts in mainstream sociology; thus, highlighting the inconsistencies in Latour and the deficiencies in mainstream sociology. The approach taken to achieve the second objective is to point out concepts that can expand the conceptual framework of mainstream sociology. In this article, Latour's statements relevant to our purpose have been questioned using the English edition of the book in question and its Turkish translation.

Keywords

Socius, Associations, Actor, Agent, Actor-Network Theory

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