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**Anna Bilon (2016). *The structure of career counselling in the Netherlands. Between cultural specificity and neoliberal change*. Wrocław: Scientific Publishing House of the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław, pp. 228**

Both, the complexity as well as the temporal multidimensionality of social life undergoing permanent changes serve as the stimulus for unconventional consideration of various social policy instruments. For the authoress, multi-contextual social changes and developments have been not without significance for career guidance analyses since it is an instrument of social policy. The scientific approach in this book deserves for acknowledgement since the complexity of career guidance, its multi-dimensional character, its flexibility as well as conceptual complexity cause the need for integration of various perspectives, opinions and theoretical approaches. It is worth stressing the precision of how the authoress deepens her analyses and arguments locating them “between cultural specificity and neoliberal changes” and drawing inspirations from Giddens’ structuration theory that is focused on the issue of how social structures are being made and transformed and what is the structure-forming importance of humans activities.

The Authoress has chosen to make use of the structuration theory by A. Giddens as the point of departure for her own considerations while being aware of the fact that in the last four decades one could realize the growing number and co-existence of various theoretical approaches to career guidance. It needs to be stressed that there is a small number of studies based on structuration theory in the Polish literature. It seems as if the decision on the paradigm chosen in the book was very conscious, since, for Giddens, it was the multiplicity of theoretical approaches and paradigms that was the subject of analyses and has made up the point of departure for creating the new theoretical system. The originality of structuration theory cognitive status lies in the search for paradigmatic code allowing to understand and explain how social relations are extended in the time and space reproducing social systems through important individuals’ actions, even though Giddens’ ideas were

discussed and criticized. The Authoress' interest in Giddens' theory should be acknowledged since it allows to look at the career guidance constructs/systems with the reference to overcoming any dichotomy. It also allows to interpret social dichotomies as a duality of the social structures.

The Authoress has made the attempts to answer the general question: *How is the career guidance system created (produced/reproduced) in the Netherlands?* She has appreciated Giddens' interest in the structure and individual and adopted it to the analyses of neoliberal social life. Structuration theory has been considered as the theoretical framework as well as research method and the Authoress opted for the need for overcoming the dichotomy of supra-individual social structures and individuals' action. In her analyses of career guidance system understood as a social process and social action, Bilon has made the analytical (in the cognitive sense) efforts to capture the mutual impact of individuals' actions and supra-individual structures on career guidance system. She also stressed the individuals' actions potential to create the social structures. By doing this, the Authoress has become one of the structuration theory commentators who dedicates a lot of space in the book to consider the general possibility of adopting theoretical concepts to the empirical research. The identification of the Dutch career guidance system's rules of structuration (shallow rules as well as deep rules) that has become one of the aims of authoress' research even though it caused the necessity to neglect the common reflection of social life *sui generis* shows the Authoress' cognitive inquisitiveness. She captured the differences between social structure (understood as the rules and resources), social systems (referred to the products of social structures) and social agents/individuals (understood as the intermediate link). In this sense, she also focuses the reader on the outline of the boundaries for possible knowledge on career guidance systems. That proves Bilon's responsible and careful reflection on the subject but also on cognitive practice and expectations of the values of theoretical statements in general.

In sum, it should be stressed that the main concepts and ideas in the book, the excellent interdisciplinary theoretical premises, the quality of the narratives being presented in four chapters are of innovative character. Making use of structuration theory as the theoretical framework makes up the attempt to establish the "third theoretical way" in the research on career guidance. The authoress joined the small group of researchers convinced of the empirical potential of Giddens' structuration theory that can be successfully applied into the research on career guidance.

*Translated from Polish by Aneta Słowik*