
Title: Middle Classes: Observations from Legal, Political, Economic, Management and Sociological Points of View



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Call for Papers

Proposal

Research about middle classes is driven by different aspects; (1.) One research question is concerned with the middle class as a buffer between higher and lower strata, which is almost regarded as a stabilizing factor of the socio-political order of societies. In this context, research focuses at the voting behavior of the middle classes, and the power to integrate and unify societies or to initiate political conflict. (2.) Middle classes are of interest in investigating patterns of inequality and social mobility. This last point is of particular relevance in view of the future of middle-classes in a globalized world. Several countries suffer an ongoing “de-middledization” which is a shrinking of the middle and an increase of the poles of poor and rich people while other countries have an increase of middle-classes with an accumulation of income and wealth of their people. (3.) Since the phenomenon of the middle classes is ultimately connected to consumption and consumer behaviour, the topic has links to questions of social stratification and social inequality, and to consumption behaviour and patterns of life-styles.

The special issue seeks contributions that deal in a legal, political, historic, economic or sociological perspective with middle-classes. Papers may be of a conceptual nature and/or with empirical data discussion, either in a cross-national perspective or focussing at empirical cases of individual countries or regions. The Special Issue tries to include articles covering a diversity of empirical observations globally. Forms of legal and illegal practices to raise income, to pay (or to avoid) taxes, to practice life-styles and routines of consumption, to invest in education of the own children and many other items belong to a list of potential topics for articles to get acknowledged for inclusion.
