Compensatory Legitimation and Intermediate Bodies - The Example of Social Democratic Policies of Higher Education

Schenk, Anett

2007

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
Abstract
The state’s need for legitimacy and the legitimation crisis of the capitalist state have been discussed in social theory since a long time. However, it has also been discussed whether not legitimation but general support would be the decisive factor and whether legitimation could be substituted for by something else.
This article considers the policies of higher education supported by Social Democratic governments in Sweden and in Germany, specifically in North-Rhine Westphalia in the latter case, from the mid-1960s to the year 2000. It pinpoints various shifts in policy orientation during the last thirty years. One shift is discussed in particular detail, namely the shift from addressing issues of class to addressing those of gender segregation. A discussion of this shift in terms of “compensatory legitimation” and the “utilisation of expertise” (Hans N. Weiler 1983, 1990) allows an interpretation of a more general nature applicable as well to political governments others than Social Democratic ones.