



ICS Annual Lecture

June 20th, 2018, 16:00-17:30

Location: Roeterseiland Campus Room C0.02.

With Drinks afterwards in de Brug (same building).

Understanding Gender Inequality: Are Sociologists Too Afraid of 'Blaming the Victim'?

by

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Abstract

Sometimes individuals' social positions directly affect their outcomes. In other cases, social positions create durable personal characteristics affecting outcomes. Social science research can and should attempt to identify both kinds of effects. But many people err in exaggerating the control individuals have over their own outcomes. Sociologists, in contrast, are often reluctant to recognize effects of personal characteristics, seeing such recognition as "blaming the victim." For example, some sociologists eschew attributing women's unequal outcomes to internalized gender norms because it seems to blame women for an unequal gender system. This talk suggests ways for sociologists to address these issues in their research and public engagement.

Paula England is Silver Professor of Sociology at New York University. She is a past president of the American Sociological Association, and a well-known scholar of gender and stratification. Professor England has previously held professorships at Stanford University, Northwestern, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Arizona.

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ICS is the Interuniversity Center for Social Science Theory and Methodology, which offers a PhD programme in empirical-theoretical social science. It integrates faculty members, postdocs and PhD students from the University of Groningen, Utrecht University, Radboud University Nijmegen, and the University of Amsterdam.