

Abstract

Factors for interpreting the social world as just

The concept of justice refers to the interrelationship between the individual and the general welfare. However, the concept of "justice" is not clearly defined in sociology. According to Emile Durkheim, justice is a state that is required by social groups to maintain cohesion. Scheonfeld & Mestrovic (1989) argue that justice can be seen as equivalent to Durkheim's solidarity given that the means for acquiring justice are important for maintaining solidarity in society.

Modern sociology often distinguishes between distributive and procedural justice (Šanderová, 2017), the former noting the perceived fairness of the resulting distribution of rewards and sanctions, while the latter the fairness of the process that leads to this distribution. For distributive justice, it may be analytically important to distinguish between the level of distribution of goods (who receives valuable resources and for what) and the distribution of sanctions (how and who will be punished if they act against the common good) (Šanderová, 2017).

A situation where an individual's perception of justice is positive is a desirable phenomenon for the maintenance of social order. Conversely, a negative perception of justice promotes alternative actions and becomes a manifestation of distrust in the world around (Tuček, 2006).

The aim of this thesis is to produce a review paper that combines empirical and theoretical knowledge on the factors that influence perception of justice. The research question I addressed is: What are the factors of interpreting the social world as just?

Based on my analysis of the literature, I concluded that the factors that influence positive perceptions of justice are fulfilled expectations from interaction and ideological congruence within the group. Ideological congruence determines the principle of distribution and the notion of fair distribution. This notion is then manifested at the micro level when individuals interact with each other to

evaluate the fairness of a situation. At the macro social level, life satisfaction emerges as a key prerequisite for perceiving the world as a functional and well-managed place.

Keywords: justice, social justice, solidarity, cohesion, distributive justice, procedural justice, perceptions of justice.