

Torsten Wöllmann:

## Theorizing the Dynamics of Discipline Building

Once the issue of institutionalizing disciplines was a common topic of sociology of science. With the emergence of STS other areas of research moved into the focus. Moreover, the old-fashioned functionalist concepts of institutionalization developed by e.g. Robert K. Merton or Joseph Ben-David became deeply criticised, these critiques being starting points of STS's boundary work.

Nevertheless, as far as disciplines play an important role in structuring scientific, medical, and engineering practice (e.g. on the levels of university departments, professional societies, textbooks or manuals), research on the dynamics of discipline formation is still important.

My presentation addresses the question of how we can re-conceptualize the institutionalization of disciplines, starting with critically discussing Timothy Lenoir's framework of cultural production of scientific disciplines. I will illustrate this with an ongoing formation process, namely the institutionalization of a new medical specialty: andrology.