

Aleksander Manterys

The Polish Academy of Sciences

Social Bonds and the Relational Nature of Embeddedness

In this article I will attempt to present a “relational reading” of the nature of embeddedness in terms of social bonds. This attempt will contain: (1) reconstructing the conceptual category of social bonds, including its original context(s) and the tentative balance of its heuristic power; (2) delineation of meanings and modes of embeddedness and its implemental assets and liabilities; (3) “relationalization” of the concept of social bond and its inclusion into the discourse of relational sociology; and (4) presenting embeddedness as a relational conglomerate of social bonds constituted on diverse levels of social reality, *sui generis* “relational elements” of social order.