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**Orientations of the professionals and Hegemony in the (German) transition system  
from school to work – A governmentality study.**

The perspective of the dissertation project is to proceed from the hegemony and discourse concept by Laclau and Mouffe (2001). In this concept the view on the social is a power and knowledge coherence that links to “*nadal points*”. “*Nadal points*” are fixations of the social partial. Partial fixation of the social refers to the impossibility of ultimate fixing. “Such a system only exists as a partial limitation of a ‘surplus of meaning’ which subverts it. Being inherent in every discursive situation, this ‘surplus’ is the necessary terrain for the constitution of every social practice” (Laclau/Mouffe 2001: 111). This is what they call the “*field of discursivity*”. The discourse “is constituted as an attempt to dominate the field of discursivity, to arrest the flow of differences, to construct a centre” (Laclau/Mouffe 2001: 112). In my research project I ask for the fixation of the social (“*nadal points*”) in the transition system from school to work and the role of the (social work) professionals. The discourses will be accomplished at three dimensions – the political programmes, the political interventions, and the orientations of the professionals – and is centred on the active-interpretive part of the professionals in relation to the political discourse. According to the theoretical and methodological framework of discourse analysis, any kind of determination is rejected. Instead, analyzing the “*nadal points*” between these three dimensions is seen as a theoretical abstraction, because they are no physical objects, but they have an effect (Wirkmächtigkeit).

The research is located in the field of vocational preparation for young people (“berufsvorbereitenden Bildungsmaßnahmen”). These measures are fixed in the (German) law for employment promotion (Arbeitsförderung) and aim to the labour market integration of young people. In 2004 the intervention program was restructured to enhance the efficiency and the effectiveness. Since that time, diagnosis of customers’ acceptability (Eignungsanalyse) is seen as the central precondition of the intervention (Bundesagentur für Arbeit 2009). The dissertation project is focussed on the orientations of the social work

professionals who are seen as important actors in this transformed field and their degree of latitude (Eckert/Heisler et al. 2007)

#### Bibliography

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