

Wolfgang Glatzer

Wolfgang Glatzer (* 15. September 1944 in Hohenborau, District of Glogau/Silesia) is a German sociologist, since 2009 in retirement.

Education

Wolfgang Glatzer grew up in Reundorf (District of Lichtenfels/Frankonia) and went to primary school at Grundfeld. He graduated at the Meranier-Highschool in Lichtenfels in 1964. After having served his military service he changed from his rural village to the city of Frankfurt/Main.

From 1966 to 1972 he studied Sociology, Economics and Social Politics at the J.W. Goethe-University in Frankfurt am Main and finished his studies with the diploma in sociology. Wolfgang Glatzer studied varying sociological approaches which existed in German Universities and abroad at that time.

Profession

From 1972 – 1978 he was employed as research assistant in a research team of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft who developed the “The Sociopolitical Decision and Indicator Systems for the Federal Republic of Germany” at Frankfurt University. Afterwards he changed to the University of Mannheim, where he received his PhD under the guidance of Wolfgang Zapf, Eberhard Wille and Hans Albert.

From 1978 until 1984 he was coordinator at the ‘Special Research Group 3’ dealing with the ‘Microanalytic Foundations of Societal Politics’. In 1982 he spent a research stay at Stanford University. Then in 1984 he accepted a chair at the Goethe University in Frankfurt with the denomination “Socio-structural and Cultural Change”. The research topics which he favored during his scientific life were concerned with social structure, quality of life, the welfare state and household production. From a methodological point of view his interest laid in social indicator research and social reporting. Wolfgang Glatzer belonged to national and international scientific networks, he published as a single author as well as in cooperation with others some hundred books and articles in twelve languages.

In September 2009 he retired but continues to be active in social research, especially in quality of Life research. Wolfgang Glatzer is married and has two children and five grandchildren.

Within the sociological network

Wolfgang Glatzer gave his first university talk at the beginning of his studies in a seminar of Theodor W. Adorno. The topic was “Integration and Differentiation by Herbert Spencer”. At this time sociology was rather differentiated in Frankfurt. Wolfgang Glatzer participated in lectures and seminars grounding in the ‘Critical Theory’ presented by Theodor W. Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Alfred Schmidt, Ludwig von Friedeburg and Jürgen Habermas. He studied further sociological approaches pursued by Walter Rüttgen, Ruth Meyer and Alfred Bellebaum, Thomas Luckmann and especially Wolfgang Zapf. For more than two decades he worked with social scientists from the universities of Frankfurt and Mannheim in two projects called “SPES-Project” and “Sfb-3” (Special Research Department 3). The group was founded by Hans-Jürgen Krupp and Wolfgang Zapf followed by Karl Ulrich Mayer, Richard Hauser, Reinhard Hujer as well as other economists and sociologists. To his cooperative networks belonged among others primarily Karl Otto Hondrich, Ilona Ostner and Kurt Lüscher. Wolfgang Glatzer kept all the time international cooperations for example with Theodor

Caplow (Charlottesville), Henri Mendras (Paris), Simon Langlois (Quebec), Rudolf Andorka and Zsolt Speder (Budapest), Salustiano del Campo (Madrid), Richard Estes (Philadelphia), Kenneth Land (Durham), Hanlin Li (Peking), Valerie Moller (Grahamstown) and Alex Michalos (Prince George).

Wolfgang Glatzer was a founding member of the international research group ``Comparative Charting of Social Change`` (1978), the "Commission for Research on Social Change" (1987), the commission for the "Investigation of Social and Political Change in the New Countries of the German Republic" (KSPW) (1991); he was speaker of the interdisciplinary working group "Technique Research" (IATF) at the J.W. Goethe University Frankfurt from 1994-1996 and speaker of the research group "Social Politics and Social Structure" (2006). Above he was head of the Section "Social Indicators" in the German Sociological Society (1989-1995). He was appointed Dean of the Department Social Sciences (1991-1992 and 1996-1997), President of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies (2003-2004).

Wolfgang Glatzer was local organizer of the ``25. Deutscher Soziologentag`` in Frankfurt/Main (1990) and the ISQOLS-World Conference "Challenges for Quality of Life in the Contemporary World" in Frankfurt/Main (2003). In addition he was head of various examination committees including the Philosophic Promotion Commission (1999-2004). He was supervising 4 habilitation works, 35 dissertations and 134 diploma and master works. Through many years he was a member of the Friedrich Ebert-foundation and worked there in the FES-scholarship commission.

Scientific significance and influence

Wolfgang Glatzer is acknowledged as pioneer of social indicator research. Since the 1970ties he published a number of innovative publications to social reporting in Germany. He was mainly concerned with the socio-structural changes in modern societies. Of central interest for him, was the analysis of the German Society, especially the unification process since 1990. He regarded societies not only in respect to their economic performance but also in respect to their household production and house-management and to the significance of the welfare state (social justice and social inequalities), were matters of special interest to him. Comparative analysis of international social structures, quality of life and welfare development were undertaken under his direction with international teams. The central handling of the first cooperative "Datenreport" for Germany (1985) was in his hands and laid to a long-term cooperation of university social scientists and the federal statistical office. Wolfgang Glatzer exercised influence as head of several national and international social scientific associations and was not at least a successful organizer of local and international scientific congresses.