

The Genesis and Future Relevance of the Disciplinary Structure of Science – *Rudolf Stichweh (Sociology), University of Luzern (Switzerland)*

The paper will give a systematic review of what we know about the functional significance of the disciplinary structure of science: The genesis of scientific disciplines as communication systems of specialists in 18th and 19th-century society. The ongoing process of internal differentiation of science which brings about ever new disciplines and subdisciplines and specialties. The interrelation of disciplinarity and the forms of the production of innovation in science which arise either in internal communication processes in science or on the basis of interdisciplinary contacts and transfers. Furthermore the paper will look at collaboration patterns and the dynamics of coauthorship which obviously is an emergent reality of 20th-century science which reshapes the social structure of science. The rise and the incessant reformation of the disciplinary structure of science seems to suggest an interpretation of these patterns in terms of evolutionary theories and the paper will present and evaluate these interpretive possibilities.