Abstract

This reflection deals with the cultural reconfigurations that enrich the traditional themes of sociology today. The author’s starting point is Elias’s supposition about the continual social reconfiguration of knowledge and action. She presents the question of happiness as a series of socially and culturally legitimated and constructed aspirations. This position demonstrates an inquiry into happiness modeled on social practices themselves, on the discourses that emerge from power and knowledge relations rather than on scientific or ethical definitions. The article analyzes Lipovetsky’s inquiry into happinesses corresponding to certain phases of modernity. In addition, it points out the philosophical nature of today’s search for the meaning of life.

Keywords

Happinesses, unhappinesses, hedonisms, reconfigurations, constructions of entity, emotions, modernities.