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# The Theory of Social Functional Systems by Niklas Luhmann

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By Ramona Mayer

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2014 in the subject Sociology - Basics and General, grade: 1,2,  
Reutlingen University (ESB Business School), language:  
English, abstract: This paper introduces the theory of social  
functional systems by Niklas Luhmann who is a great  
representative of systems theory in sociology. As his theory is  
based on the concept of autopoiesis, the original autopoiesis  
concept of Maturana and Valdera is shortly demonstrated as  
well as the way of how Luhmann shaped it into a general  
autopoiesis concept. This general introduction is followed by a  
detailed explanation of ideas of Luhmann's social systems  
theory. As his theory is communication-based rather than  
action-based, the element of communication is further  
explored. Additionally, the social systems of society,  
organization and interaction are defined whereas the main  
focus is on society as social system. Within this context, several  
subsystems of society are explicated together with their  
appropriate coding, program, medium and function.  
Furthermore, the idea of structural coupling which can be  
described as relation between systems and their environments  
is implemented. After having a complete picture...



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