



ics
Universidad
de Navarra

Instituto Cultura y Sociedad

Emotional Culture and Identity Project

Subproject 1: Conceptual Analysis and Theoretical Frame

Doctoral thesis on the sociology of emotions in Arlie R. Hochschild

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Summary: Recent changes in philosophy, political science, and economics have highlighted some of the shortcomings of formalist and structural models of action and society, based in theories of organizations and systems, which ultimately aim at social control. These developments have resulted in an increasing interest in interactionist traditions, oriented toward the meso- microsociological level and the constitution of social identity. It can be said now that neither interactionism nor formalist structural models have covered all spheres of human action. This explains the great interest in the study of emotions as they are an integral part of human activity and largely determine social action.

Arlie Russell Hochschild is an American sociologist, who, in her work, took the first steps towards a better understanding of emotions in their relationship with other human spheres (epistemic, practical, cultural, etc.) She has studied the dynamics of emotions and has identified its various languages. The interaction between the intimate, individual and social brings together the pieces of a code that imposes certain meanings and applications beyond the intention and the perception of emotional subjects. And it is with this approach to the realities of ultramodern societies that she is recognized as one of the authors of greatest importance within contemporary studies on emotion.

The purpose of this research is to present in detail the main developments within social theory that lead to the deployment of the thought of Hochschild. Also, the research will try to identify, by examining the latest discussions on the subject, the difficulties generated by studying human emotions, one of the most fundamental and relevant elements in action and identity. Sociological treatment of emotion not only allows a more complete understanding of what emotions are, but also opens the way to integrate that understanding into a more complex field, such as social action.