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0521596874 - Social Mechanisms: An Analytical Approach to Social Theory

Edited by Peter Hedstrom and Richard Swedberg

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The advancement of social theory requires an analytical approach that systematically seeks to explicate the social mechanisms that generate and explain observed associations between events. These essays, written by prominent social scientists, advance criticisms of current trends in social theory and suggest alternative approaches. The mechanism approach calls attention to an intermediary level of analysis, in between pure description and storytelling, on the one hand, and grand theorizing and universal social laws, on the other. For social theory to be of use for the working social scientists, it must attain a high level of precision and provide a toolbox from which middle-range theories can be constructed.

Contributors: Raymond Boudon, Tyler Cowen, Jon Elster, Diego Gambetta, Peter Hedström, Gudmund Hernes, Timur Kuran, Thomas C. Schelling, Aage B. Sørensen, Arthur L. Stinchcombe, Richard Swedberg, and Axel van den Berg.

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Edited by

**Peter Hedström and Richard Swedberg**

*Stockholm University*

# SOCIAL MECHANISMS

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press  
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
 Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521593199](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521593199)

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First published 1998  
 Reprinted 2004, 2005

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Social mechanisms : an analytical approach to social theory / edited  
 by Peter Hedström, Richard Swedberg.

p. cm. — (Studies in rationality and social change)  
 Includes index.

ISBN 0-521-59319-0. — ISBN 0-521-59687-4 (pbk.)

1. Sociology — Methodology. 2. Social systems. I. Hedström,  
 Peter. II. Swedberg, Richard. III. Series.  
 HM24.S54426 1997

301'.01-dc21 97-11413  
 CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-59319-9 hardback  
 ISBN-10 0-521-59319-0 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-59687-9 paperback  
 ISBN-10 0-521-59687-4 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2006

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*For James S. Coleman and Robert K. Merton*

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## Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the following sources: the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, the Tore Browaldh Foundation for Scientific Research and Education, and the Swedish Council for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. This support enabled us to hold a lively symposium on the theme of social mechanisms at The Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, during June 6–7, 1996. We also would like to thank the participants at this symposium, in particular Andrew Abbott, Mario Bunge, Ronald Burt, Michael Hannan, Michael Hechter, Daniel Klein, Peter Marsden, Robert K. Merton, Charles Tilly, and Harriet Zuckerman.

We owe a special debt to Christofer Edling, Fredrik Liljeros, Rickard Sandell, Lotta Stern, and Cecilia Swedberg, whose help in organizing the symposium was invaluable. The personnel at the Royal Academy of Science kindly assisted us in all possible ways. Rickard Sandell helped out in putting together the final version of the manuscript. We are also very grateful to Elizabeth Neal at Cambridge University Press, who helped to see this volume into press with customary skill and professionalism. Finally, Amos Tversky was scheduled to have participated in the symposium, but sadly passed away before it took place.

Stockholm

November 1996

Cambridge University Press

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