

Do forms and structures of exchange affect solidarity?

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Abstract

Since Durkheim [1933] (1984), sociologists have long regarded solidarity as a solution to the problems of social order and social change. However, what produces solidarity and how it does so is still a debatable issue. This paper chooses generalized exchange as one of the answers to this problem and discusses whether it promotes solidarity or not. The results of a laboratory experiment shows that generalized exchange in fact promotes solidarity through raising expectation of others' contribution to the group since it has the characteristics of reciprocal exchange.