



TASA The Australian
Sociological Association

TITLE: *Developing the Conceptualization of Power within Structuration Theory*

Author/s: Rob Stones

Affiliation/s: Western Sydney University

The strong structuration approach (see Rob Stones, *Structuration Theory*, 2005) developed Anthony Giddens's version of structuration theory in ways that increased its utility for empirical case study research. The first step in this elaboration involved the provision of greater conceptual refinement at the abstract, philosophical level. This was then allied to a greater emphasis on the processes involved in moving from the abstract generalising level of conceptualization to a more concrete, empirical level. Greater emphasis was also placed on epistemology, and specifically on embedding phenomena-to-be-explained (explananda) within the meso-level of networks and position-practices relevant to a particular case study. Academics have subsequently used strong structuration theory (SST) to guide and illuminate research across many disciplines and subject matters. An important new discussion of Giddens's later work on politics and modernity argues that it underplays the roles of power and domination (Craig Browne's *Habermas and Giddens on Modernity*, 2016). Prompted by this discussion, and the sense that Giddens's initial conceptualization of structuration theory is responsible for this, the current paper will draw on the SST framework to explore ways in which Giddens's treatment of power in structuration theory can be more adequately developed.