

Emory University

RECENT THEORETICAL ORIENTATIONS

SOC 742; Spring 2018

Wednesday 4:00-7:00; 206 Tarbutton Hall

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:00 to 4:00

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociological theory sometimes has the unfortunate reputation of being (a) removed from empirical matters and (b) done by people who are now long dead. That reputation cannot be further from the truth. In fact, sociological theory remains vibrant in the present and, in both its classical and contemporary formulations, it has remained tied to understanding empirically the world in which we live. In this seminar, we will focus on recent streams of thought within sociological theory, paying attention to key contributors. We start with such 20th century sociologists as W.E.B. Du Bois and Oliver C. Cox and work our way to such living sociologists as Arlie Hochschild and Viviana Zelizer. In the process, we will see how sociological theory connects to such fundamental concerns as race and racism, identity and interaction, commercialization, and everyday life. Throughout the semester, we will interrogate the notion of “theory” and problematize the nature of the contemporary “sociological canon.”

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is organized as a seminar, which entails the combination of a fair amount of reading, class discussion, and an empirical paper. Given this organization, you are expected to attend each class and to participate.

A) Attendance

If you must miss a class, please inform me ahead of time so that we can make arrangements. Note that unexcused absences will negatively affect your final grade.

B) Class Participation and Discussion

Active participation requires adequate preparation. You therefore must read the assigned material before class and develop your own assessment of this material. Such careful preparation will improve the quality of class discussion. Of course, class discussion should be both informed and

respectful; moreover, it should be a forum wherein all can raise questions, explore ideas, and express misgivings. Most of all, this discussion should be fun.

C) Weekly Memos

You will prepare a 3-page memo for each week's readings (typed and double-spaced). You should regard these memos as ideas in progress rather than as finished products. Use them to digest each week's readings and to respond with questions, criticisms, and new ideas. Please bring your memo to class and submit it at the end of class.

Below is a list of things you MIGHT address in a given week. But, there is much flexibility in terms of how you formulate your own ideas.

- What is it that the theorists are trying to explain – and why is that an important endeavor?
 - What explanation do the theorists propose?
 - How do the theorists motivate their explanation, both logically and empirically?
 - What gaps do they leave in their explanation?
 - Is there explanation compelling and does it “travel” to other cases?
 - How does their theoretical explanation fit (or not fit) with the broader sociological literature?
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COURSE RESOURCES

As the semester progresses, class materials will be posted on the Canvas site for SOC 742 (see <https://canvas.emory.edu>).

The assigned readings are drawn from many sources, so there is no textbook. Instead, the required readings are available at our Canvas site and at Woodruff electronic reserves (see <https://ereserves.library.emory.edu/index.php>).

If you have any special needs, please contact me at the beginning of the semester and we will discuss the necessary arrangements (for additional information, visit the Emory Office of Accessibility Services website; see <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/index.html>).

COURSE SCHEDULE *(Subject to Revision)*

January 17: Introductions

January 24: Approaching Theory and Theorizing

Joshua Guetzkow, Michèle Lamont and Grégoire Mallard. 2004. “What is Originality in the Humanities and the Social Sciences?” *American Sociological Review* 69: 190-212.

Kieran Healy. 2017. “Fuck Nuance.” *Sociological Theory* 35: 118-127.

Ashley Mears. 2017. "Puzzling in Sociology: On Doing and Undoing Theoretical Puzzles." *Sociological Theory* 35: 138-146.

Mary Romero. 2017. "Reflections on 'The Department is Very Male, Very White, Very Old, and Very Conservative': The Function of the Hidden Curriculum in Graduate Sociology Departments." *Social Problems* 64: 212-218.

Richard Swedberg. 2016. "Before Theory Comes Theorizing or How to Make Social Sciences More Interesting." *The British Journal of Sociology* 67: 5-22.

January 31: *Theorizing with Race & Racism: Part 1*

Patricia Hill Collins. 2016. "Du Bois' Contested Legacy." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 39: 1398-1406.

Oliver C. Cox. 1959. *Caste, Class, & Race: A Study in Social Dynamics*. New York: Monthly Review Press. Preface, Introduction, Pages 317-345, 462-586.

W.E.B. Du Bois. 1996 (1899). *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study*. New introduction by Elijah Anderson, and special report by Isabel Eaton. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Chapters 1 through 4, 11, 12 and 13.

W.E.B. Du Bois. 2007 (1903). *The Souls of Black Folks*. Edited with an Introduction by Bent Hayes Edwards. New York: Oxford University Press.

Aldon D. Morris. 2015. *The Scholar Denied: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Chapters 3 and 8.

February 7: *Theorizing with Race & Racism: Part 2*

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. 1997. "Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation." *American Sociological Review* 62: 465-480.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva and Tukufu Zuberi. 2008. "Toward a Definition of White Logic and White Methods." Pages 3-27 in *White Logic, White Methods: Racism and Methodology*, edited by Tukufu Zuberi and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Ellis Monk. 2015. "The Cost of Color: Skin Color, Discrimination, and Health among African Americans." *American Journal of Sociology* 121: 396-444.

Jennifer C. Mueller. 2017. "Producing Colorblindness: Everyday Mechanisms of White Ignorance." *Social Problems* 64: 219-238.

Alyasah Sewell. 2016. "The Racism-Race Reification Process: A Mesolevel Political Economic Framework for Understanding Racial Health Disparities." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 2: 402-432.

February 14: Theorizing with Gender & Intersectionality: Part 1

Jane Addams. 2002 (1902). *Democracy and Social Ethics*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press.

Anna J. Cooper. 2017 (1892). *A Voice from the South: By a Black Woman of the South*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press. Selections.

Simone De Beauvoir. 2011 (1949). *The Second Sex*. New York: Vintage Books. Selections.

Mary Jo Deegan. 2013. "Jane Addams, the Hull-House School of Sociology, and Social Justice, 1892 to 1935." *Humanity & Society* 37: 248-258.

Patricia Madoo Lengerman and Gillian Niebrugge. 2007. *The Women Founders: Sociology and Sociological Theory, 1830-1930*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. Chapter 1.

February 21: Theorizing with Gender & Intersectionality: Part 2

Hae Yeon Choo and Myra Marx Ferree. 2010. "Practicing Intersectionality in Sociological Research: A Critical Analysis of Inclusions, Interactions, and Institutions in the Study of Inequalities." *Sociological Theory* 28: 129-149.

Patricia Hill Collins. 2009 (1990). *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge. Selections.

Adia Harvey Wingfield and Taura Taylor. 2016. "Race, Gender, and Class in the Entrepreneurial Process: Intersectional Counterframes and Black Business Owners." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 39: 1698-1718.

Dorothy E. Smith. 1990. *The Conceptual Practice of Power: A Feminist Sociology of Knowledge*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Selections.

Barrie Thorne. 2006. "How Can Feminist Sociology Sustain Its Critical Edge?" *Social Problems* 53: 473-478.

February 28: Theorizing Classification and the Social Order: Part 1

Peter L. Berger. 1990 (1967). *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*. New York: Anchor Books.

Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckman. 1966. *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge*. New York: Anchor Books. Selections.

Mary Douglas. 2002 (1966). *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concepts of Pollution and Taboo*. London: Routledge. Selections.

Robert Wuthnow, James Davison Hunter, Albert Bergesen, and Edith Kurzweil. 1984. *Cultural Analysis: The Work of Peter L. Berger, Mary Douglas, Michel Foucault and Jürgen Habermas*. Boston: Routledge Kegan Paul. Selections.

Eviatar Zerubavel. 1985. *The Seven Day Circle: The History and Meaning of the Week*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

March 7: *Theorizing Classification and the Social Order: Part 2*

Peter Conrad and Kristen K. Barker. 2010. "The Social Construction of Illness: Key Insights and Policy Implications." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51: 267-279.

Frank Dobbin. 1994. "Cultural Models of Organization: The Social Construction of Rational Organizing Principles." Page 117-142 in *The Sociology of Culture: Emerging Theoretical Perspectives*, edited by Diana Crane. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Press.

John W. Meyer and Patricia Bromley. 2013. "The Worldwide Expansion of 'Organization.'" *Sociological Theory* 31: 366-389.

Cecilia L. Ridgeway. 1997. "Interaction and the Conservation of Gender Inequality: Considering Employment." *American Sociological Review* 62: 218-235.

Cecilia L. Ridgeway. 2013. "Why Status Matters for Inequality." *American Sociological Review* 79: 1-16.

March 14: *SPRING BREAK (No Class)*

March 21: *Theorizing Interaction & the Social Order: Part 1*

Randall Collins. 1989. "Three Stages of Erving Goffman." Pages 219-254 in *Sociology Since Midcentury: Essays in Theory Cumulation*. New York: Academic Press.

Harold Garfinkel. 1969. *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. Engelwood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall. Selections.

Erving Goffman. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Anchor Books. Selections.

Erving Goffman. 1986 (1963). *Stigma: Notes on the Management of a Spoiled Identity*. New York: Simon & Schuster. Selections.

John Heritage. 1987. "Harold Garfinkel." Pages 224-272 in *Social Theory Today*, edited by Anthony Giddens and Jonathan Turner. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

March 28: Theorizing Interaction & the Social Order: Part 2

Gary Alan Fine. 2010. "The Sociology of the Local: Action and Its Publics." *Sociological Theory* 28: 355-376.

Gary Alan Fine. 2012. *Tiny Publics: A Theory of Group Action and Culture*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Selections.

Candace West and Don H. Zimmerman. 1987. "Doing Gender." *Gender & Society* 1: 125-151.

Jooyoung Lee. 2009. "Escaping Embarrassment: Face-Work in the Rap Cipher." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 72: 306-324.

Bin Xu. 2012. "Grandpa Wen: Scene and Political Performance." *Sociological Theory* 30: 114-129.

April 4: Theorizing Fields and Relationality

Wendy Bottero and Nick Crossley. 2011. "Worlds, Fields and Networks: Becker, Bourdieu and the Structures of Social Relations." *Cultural Sociology* 5: 99-119.

Pierre Bourdieu. 1993. *The Field of Cultural Production*. New York: Columbia University Press. Selections.

Pierre Bourdieu and Loïc Wacquant. 1992. *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Selections.

John Levi Martin. 2003. "What is Field Theory?" *American Journal of Sociology* 109:1-49.

Omar Lizardo. 2004. "The Cognitive Origins of Bourdieu's Habitus." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour* 34:375-401.

April 11: Theorizing Networks & Meaning

Mustafa Emirbayer. 1997. "Manifesto for a Relational Sociology." *American Journal of Sociology* 103: 281-317.

Mustafa Emirbayer and Jeff Goodwin. 1994. "Network Analysis, Culture, and the Problem of Agency." *American Journal of Sociology* 99: 1411-54.

Gary Alan Fine and Sherryl Kleinman. 1983. "Network and Meaning: An Interactionist Approach to Culture." *Symbolic Interaction* 6:97-110.

Omar Lizardo. 2006. "How Cultural Tastes Shape Networks." *American Sociological Review* 71: 778-807.

Bernice A. Pescosolido and Beth A. Rubin. 2001. "The Web of Group Affiliations Revisited: Social Life, Postmodernism, and Sociology." *American Sociological Review* 65: 52-76.

April 18: *Theorizing Commodification and Commercialism*

Kieran Healy. 2006. *Last Best Gifts: Altruism and the Market for Human Blood and Organs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Selections.

Arlie Hochschild. 1979. "Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure." *American Journal of Sociology* 85(3): 551-575.

Arlie Hochschild. 2012 (1988). *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Viviana A. Zelizer. 1998. "Beyond the Polemics on the Market: Establishing a Theoretical and Empirical Agenda." *Sociological Forum* 3: 614-634/

Viviana A. Zelizer. 2011. *Economic Lives: How Culture Shapes the Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Selections.

April 25: *Thinking about Theorizing Once Again: Everyday Life for Academics & People in General...*

Gary Alan Fine and Ugo Corte. 2017. "Group Pleasures: Collaborative Commitments, Shared Narratives, and the Sociology of Fun." *Sociological Theory* 35: 64-86.

David Strang and Kyle Siler. 2015. "Revising as Reframing: Original Submissions versus Published Papers in *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 2005 to 2009." *Sociological Theory* 33: 71-96.

Joshua Wakeman. 2017. "Bullshit as a Problem of Social Epistemology." *Sociological Theory* 35: 15-38.

Hannah Wohl. 2015. "Community Sense: The Cohesive Power of Aesthetic Judgement." *Sociological Theory* 33: 299-326.

Jonathan R. Wynn. "On the Sociology of Occasions." *Sociological Theory* 34: 276-286.