

Selected Topics in Social Institutions: Current Debates in Cultural Sociology

Soc 520M

Spring 2002

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Practical information:

We will be meeting on Tuesdays between 2:30 and 5:30 in Wallace 190. If you wish to meet with me outside seminar hours, please contact me at mlamont@princeton.edu.

Objectives:

This seminar will focus on a few selected research areas in cultural sociology that have seen important theoretical developments in recent years. This course can be taken together with SOC 510 B, which will focus on ethnographic studies of racial and class inequality and be offered in the second half of the spring semester. SOC 530M builds on *SOC 530W: Sociology of Culture: an Introduction*, offered by Paul DiMaggio in the fall of 2001. However, 530 W is not a formal prerequisite to 530 M.

The course is primarily oriented toward students who are planning to do research in cultural sociology. As such, it will discuss specifically the challenges encountered by social scientists working in the field. To accentuate this hands-on dimension, I have invited a few guests who will make short presentations on their ongoing research, share their experience, and contribute to our discussions.

Course requirements:

- 1) Two memos on weekly readings (to be selected at the end of the first session). These memos, of a maximum length of five pages (double-space), should be emailed to all seminar participants at least 24 hours prior to our meetings. They should raise substantive and critical issues to be discussed in class.
- 2) One class presentation.
- 3) A five-page final paper outlining your research agenda in cultural sociology (due March 26).

- 4) Participation and preparedness: You are expected to be an active seminar participant and to come to meetings fully prepared according to graduate school standards.

Readings:

Weekly readings will be made available in a box located in the mailroom of the sociology department. Please return immediately after making a copy for your own use.

In addition, the following books are available at the bookstore:

Jack Katz, 1999. *How Emotions Work*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bruno Latour, 1993. *The Pasteurization of France*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

Ann Swidler, 2000. *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Lyn Spillman, 2002. *Cultural Sociology*. New York: Blackwell is available at the U-Store.

Meeting #1 (February 5): Introduction: New Developments in Cultural Sociology

Lyn Spillman, 2002. *Cultural Sociology*. New York: Blackwell.

Diana Crane, 1995. "Introduction: Culture Syllabi and the Sociology of Culture: What do Syllabi Tell Us?" Pp. 1-6 in *Course Syllabi for the Sociology of Culture*, edited by Diana Crane and Magali Sarfatti Larson. American Sociology Association, Teaching Resource Center.

George Steinmetz, 1999. "Introduction: Culture and the State". Pp. 1-50 in *State/Culture: State Formation after the Cultural Turn*, edited by George Steinmetz. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Jeffrey Alexander and Philip Smith, 2001. "The Strong Program in Cultural Theory: Elements of a Structural Hermeneutics." Pp. 135-150 in *Handbook of Sociological Theory*, edited by Jonathan H. Turner. New York: Kluger Academic/Plenum Publisher.

Suggested:

Richard Peterson, 1979. "Revitalizing the Culture Concept." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 5: 137-166.

Robert Wuthnow and Marsha Witten, 1988. "New Directions in the Study of Culture." *Annual Review of Sociology* 14: 49-67.

Wendy Griswold, 1994. *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Michael Schudson, 1997. "Cultural Studies and the Construction of Social Construction: Notes on 'Teddy Bear Patriarchy.'" Pp. 379-398 in *From Sociology to Cultural Studies*, edited by Elizabeth Long: New York: Basil Blackwell.

Steven Seidman, 1997. "Relativizing Sociology: The Challenge of Cultural Studies." Pp. 37-61 in *From Sociology to Cultural Studies*, edited by Elizabeth Long: New York: Basil Blackwell.

Philip Smith., 1998. *The New American Cultural Sociology*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Michèle Lamont, 2000. "The Future of Cultural Sociology: Broadening our Agenda." *Contemporary Sociology*. 29 (4): 602-607.

Meeting #2 (February 12): Culture and Inequality New Developments in the Study of Status and Taste
Guest: Michelle Ollivier

Pierre Bourdieu, 1984. *Distinction. A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press. Introduction, Chapter 1, Conclusion.

Bethany Bryson, 1996. "Anything but Heavy Meal": Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes" *American Sociological Review* 61 (5): 884-899.

Roger M. Kern, 1997. "Boundaries in Use: The Deployment of Personal Resources by the Upper-Middle Class." *Poetics* 25: 177-193.

Douglas B. Holt, 1997. "Distinction in America? Recovering Bourdieu's Theory of Taste from its Critics." *Poetics*. 25: 93-120.

Suggested:

Michele Lamont, 1992. *Money, Morals, and Manners: The Culture of the French and the American Upper-Middle Class*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

John Hall, 1992. "The Capitals of Culture: A Nonholistic Approach to Status Situations, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity." Pp. 257-285 in *Cultivating Differences: Symbolic Boundaries and the Making of Inequality*, edited by Michele Lamont and Marcel Fournier. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bonnie Erikson, 1996. "Culture, Class, and Connections." *American Journal of Sociology*, 102: 217-251.

Richard A. Peterson and Roger M. Kern, 1996. "Changing Highbrow Taste: From Snob to Omnivore." *American Sociological Review* 61: 900-907.

Meeting #3 (February 19): The Study of Evaluations, Bridgings, and Boundaries

Michèle Lamont and Virag Molnar, Forthcoming. "The Study of Boundaries in the Social Sciences." *Annual Review of Sociology*.

Wendy N. Espeland and Mitchell L. Stevens, 1998. "Commensuration as a Social Process." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 24: 313-43.

Carol A. Heimer, 2001. "Cases and Biographies: An Essay on Routinization and the Nature of Comparison." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 27: 47-76.

Viviana A. Zelizer, 2001. "Circuits within capitalism." Paper presented at the conference on "The Economic Sociology of Capitalism" Center for the Study of Economy and Society, Cornell University, September.

Thomas Benatouil, 1999. "A Tale of Two Sociologies. The Critical and Pragmatic Stance in Contemporary French Sociology." *European Journal of Social Theory* 2 (3): 379-396.

Suggested:

Michele Lamont and Laurent Thevenot, 2000. *Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology: Repertoires of Evaluation in France and the United States*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Peter Wagner. 1994. "Power, Uncertainty, and Institution in Recent French Debates." *The Journal of Political Philosophy*. 2 (3): 270-289.

Meeting #4 (February 26): Cultural Structures and Repertoires

William H. Sewell Jr., 1992. "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation." *American Journal of Sociology* 98: 1-29.

Ann Swidler, 2000. *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction, chapter 2, 4, 8, conclusion.

Ann Swidler, 2001. "Cultural Repertoires and Cultural Logics: Can they be Reconciled?" Paper presented at the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, CA.

Issue on Cultural Repertoires, *Newsletter of the ASA Comparative Historical Sociology Section*, Fall 2001.

Suggested:

Ann Swidler, 1986. "Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies." *American Sociological Review*, 51: 273-86.

Emirbayer, Mustapha and Jeff Goodwin, 1994. "Network Analysis, Culture, and the Problem of Agency." *American Journal of Sociology*. 99 (6): 1411-1454.

Meeting # 5 (March 5): Self, Identity, and Emotions

Guest: Riva Kastoryano

Jack Katz, 1999. *How Emotions Work*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp. 1-86 and 309-344.

Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper, 2000. "Beyond 'Identity.'" *Theory and Society* 29: 1-47.

Michele Lamont, 2001. "Culture and Identity." *Handbook of Sociological Theory*, Edited by Jonathan H. Turner. New York: Plenum. Pp. 171-186.

Mustafa Emirbayer and Chad Goldberg, 2001. "Collective Emotions in Political Life." Unpublished ms., Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Charles Tilly, 2001. "Political Identities in Changing Polities." Keynote address, conference on redefining Europe, New York University, November 30

Suggested:

Karen A. Cerulo, 1997. "Identity Construction: New Issues, New Direction." *Annual Review of Sociology* 23: 385-409.

Craig Calhoun, 1994. "Social Theory and the Politics of Identity." Pp. 9-36 in *Social Theory and the Politics of Identity*, edited by Craig Calhoun. Cambridge: Blackwell.

Margaret R. Somers, 1994. "The Narrative Constitution of Identity: A Relational and Network Approach." *Theory and Society* 23:605-649.

Richard Jenkins, 1994. "Rethinking Ethnicity: Identity, Categorization, and Power." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 17 (2): 3197-223.

Jeff Goodwin, James M. Jasper, and Francesca Polletta. 2001. *Passionate Politics: Emotions and Social Movement*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Meeting # 5: (March 5): Cultural Structures and Repertoires

William H. Sewell Jr., 1992. "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation." *American Journal of Sociology* 98: 1-29.

Ann Swidler, 2000. *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction, chapter 2, 4, 8, conclusion.

Ann Swidler, 2001. "Cultural Repertoires and Cultural Logics: Can they be Reconciled?" Paper presented at the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, CA.

Issue on Cultural Repertoires, *Newsletter of the ASA Comparative Historical Sociology Section*, Fall 2001.

Suggested:

Ann Swidler, 1986. "Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies." *American Sociological Review*, 51: 273-86.

Emirbayer, Mustapha and Jeff Goodwin, 1994. "Network Analysis, Culture, and the Problem of Agency." *American Journal of Sociology*. 99 (6): 1411-1454.

Meeting #6 (March 12): Knowledge and Science
Guest: Marcel Fournier

Bruno Latour, 1993. *The Pasteurization of France*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

Ann Swidler and Jorge Arditi, 1994. "The New Sociology of Knowledge." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 20:305-29.

Thomas F. Gieryn, 1995. "Boundaries of Science." In *Handbook of Science and Technology Studies*, edited by S Jasanoff, G Markle, J Petersen, T. Pinch. Thousand Oaks: Sage. Pp. 393-443.

Charles Camic and Neil Gross, 2001. "The New Sociology of Ideas." *The Blackwell Companion to Sociology*, ed. Judith Blau. New York: Blackwell.

Suggested:

Steven Shapin and Simon Shaffer, 1989. *Leviathan and the Air-Pump*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Steven Shapin, 1995. "Here and Everywhere: Sociology of Scientific Knowledge." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 21: 289-321.

Stephen Fuchs, 2001. *Against Essentialism*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.