



Inter-Ivy Sociology Symposium 2008 Princeton University

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On behalf of Princeton University's Sociology Department we welcome you to the Fourth Annual Inter-Ivy Sociology Symposium! This program provides information on the papers and panel discussants. We hope you will use it as a way of staying connected to one another and our work beyond the sessions today.

Our theme, "Bridging Boundaries," follows from last year's theme, "Bridging Communities," as we continue to connect across our universities, topics, and methodologies as scholars, peers, and friends. The conference is meant to be an opportunity for graduate students from all institutions not only to present their work and get feedback from leading scholars, but also to network with one another, developing professional ties and meeting potential collaborators. We hope you enjoy the day and continue to build communities and bridge boundaries moving forward!

Warm regards,
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IISS 2008 Co-Chairs

Bart Bonikowski	LiErin Probasco
Elaine Enriquez	Stephanie Schacht
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Alexandra Murphy	Erik Vickstrom
Christine Percheski	

IISS 2008 Planning Committee

Symposium Schedule

Please see the pages following for detailed information on the panels and discussants

8:30-9:30 Breakfast and Registration (Chancellor Green)

- Remarks by Bob Wuthnow, Chair of Princeton's Sociology Department

9:30-11 Session 1 (East Pyne)

- Religion's Influence over Time and in Transition (Rm 027)
- Exploring Economic Sociology (Rm 127)
- Leisure and Sport (Rm 111)

11-11:15 Coffee Break (Chancellor Green Café)

11:15-12:45 Session 2 (East Pyne)

- Using Demographic Methods to Understand Diverse Populations (Rm 111)
- Various Topics in the Sociology of Education (Rm 027)
- Understanding Networks (Rm 010)
- Discussing Civil Society (Rm 127)

12:45-2:00 Lunch (Chancellor Green Café)

2:00-3:30 Session 3 (East Pyne)

- Arts and Culture (Rm 127)
- Migration in a Global Context (Rm 010)
- Family and Youth (Rm 111)
- Identity and Boundaries (Rm 027)

3:30-3:45 Coffee Break (Chancellor Green Café)

3:45-5:15 Session 4 (East Pyne)

- Sociological Perspectives on International Issues (Rm 010)
- Conversations about Cultural Sociology (Rm 027)
- Topics in Political Sociology (Rm 111)

5:30-6:00 Reception (Chancellor Green, foyer)

6:00-8:30 Formal Dinner and Keynote Speech (Chancellor Green Rotunda)

- Keynote speech by Mitch Duneier

Religion's Influence over Time and in Transition

Co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Religion

Bob Wuthnow, Discussant

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Artemis at Brauron: An Analysis of the Cult Evidence and a Means for Cultural Distinction

Patricia Maloney, Yale University

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This paper examines the cult of Artemis Brauronia (a women's cult in 4th and 5th century B.C.E. near Athens) through literary reference, population data, and its extant archaeological evidence to determine which segments of society worshipped using this cult and what form that worship took. It then analyzes the cult with Durkheim's work on the interplay between the physical and social characteristics of a society and Bourdieu's concept of cultural capital to determine what function this cult served in ancient Athenian society. We can conclude that the upper classes used this cult as an ancient form of the debutante ball to maintain the class hierarchy in a time when outward signs like educational status or social functions could not be used as class markers.

Contrasting Images of Major Religious Transitions: How Mental Boundaries Allow Change or Prohibit It

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While not innovative in its methodology, this study of 132 former celibate Catholic priests who became married Protestant ministers presents a unique opportunity for sociologists to understand better how highly committed individuals from demanding institutions can build bridges for themselves to enter territory that they were socialized to consider forbidden.

During the recent data collection period of this research project (2007), one of the images that kept coming to mind was that of "changing lanes." Just as motorists shift in and out of lanes while maintaining the same overall direction and speed, it could be argued that these men kept their same orientation to God and of service to others but simply did so in a neighboring church. They came to consider the divide between the churches as mere intermittent white lines on the surface of the roadway, and could thus justify their transition.

Not everyone, however, and especially not those in positions of religious authority, would agree with this benevolent automotive imagery. From the official Canon Law perspective, a resigned priest who renounces his faith is an apostate, guilty of a very serious – almost unforgivable – sin. Catholic traditionalists would equate his relocation to crossing double yellow lines on a highway and driving into oncoming traffic.

After presenting some basic descriptive results, and guided by a particular four-fold typology of boundary crossing, I will juxtapose these two contrasting images and thereby demonstrate how mental boundaries, rooted in collective conceptions and practices, frame worldviews and either allow change or prohibit it.

Serving God or Mammon?

A Look at Religious Mutual Funds

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The recent phenomenon of religious mutual funds provides a valuable case study to explore the way social actors negotiate the competing symbolic spheres of religious and economic behavior. There are currently fourteen religious mutual fund families that engage in socially responsible investing. For instance, Muslim funds refuse to invest in corporations that are involved with the pork production or the collection of interest (or usury). Christian funds tend to screen out corporations involved in the abortion industry. Through content analysis of legal and promotional documents of all religious funds, I explore how fund producers (those working for the mutual fund organization) negotiate the competing realms of religion and the economy. Special emphasis will be placed on the funds' engagement in screening (excluding certain firms from the fund's investment portfolio) and the concept of stewardship.

Accounting for Short Term Mission Trips

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The international short-term mission trip (STM) is an increasingly popular activity for American Christians, with an estimated 1-4 million U.S. participants in 2003 spending anywhere from \$2 to \$10 billion. Trips typically last 1-2 weeks, with individuals or groups (often teens) traveling to an underdeveloped region and participating in service provision, religious activities and cultural exchange. These trips are also highly controversial, not least because of their expense. A widely shared assumption about service provision is that it benefits volunteers as much as aid recipients. Existing academic research on the topic has assumed a consensus among practitioners that trips should benefit travelers and aid recipients as equally as possible. Critics of the STM argue that disproportionate spending on travel and tourism creates an insurmountable imbalance of power and benefits that favors travelers over those they visit.

This paper challenges the assumption of a singular perspective on the social relationship between travelers and aid recipients. Organizations offering STMs can use any of at least three distinct explanatory accounts to frame the social relationships and power dynamics of trips: accounts of service, education, and investment. Practitioners also employ a variety of mental and social accounting practices to manage money exchanged during STMs, including earmarking and the cognitive limitation of fungibility. These explanatory and social accounting practices reveal that practitioners have multiple orientations to the social relationship of traveler/aid recipient. These frames affect evaluation standards and (according to interviewed practitioners) are linked to financial practices and differences in programming.

Exploring Economic Sociology

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Opportunity Valley---Forgotten City: Development Policy and Social Capital

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Two theories dominate contemporary explanations for variety in regional economic and social opportunity. One celebrates anonymous markets, individual effort, and rational societal forces. Described as “social capital,” the other emphasizes network linkages produced by tightly-knit group (community) memberships. Storper and colleagues argue society and community are not mutually exclusive. Neither approach adequately addresses the problem of exclusivity and the lack of voice within decision-making processes. To acknowledge impact of elite power, they call for examining closely social choices occurring within and among competing groups. Research should study both main and interaction effects on regional performance by Putnam’s bonding and bridging social capital. Responding to Storper’s challenge, I explore his theory and apply it to a case study of Lehigh Valley (Pennsylvania, USA) coalitions, the region’s evolution of intra-regional socio-political-economic disparity, as well as the organizational/institutional methods available to sustain or minimize exclusivity throughout the development process. Understanding interaction of bonding and bridging social capital yields insight to the degree of inclusiveness and diversity. I use the Advocacy Coalition Framework to analyze Storper’s theory. This case study compares and contrasts the effect of competing coalition belief systems, their long-term stability, the degree to which competing group members learn from each other through interaction, and whether these systems consciously or subconsciously produce uneven development and poverty concentration within politically forgotten urban districts.

Economic Globalization and Job Insecurity: Cross-National Evidence from 19 Countries in 1997 and 2005

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This research aims to examine the effect of economic globalization on people’s perception of job insecurity. Employing two International Social Survey Program (ISSP) datasets and using hierarchical linear modeling, it shows how economic globalization, especially foreign direct investment, has negatively affected workers’ job security and how its effect has changed between 1997 and 2005 in 19 countries. This correlation holds in analyses accounting for the effect of individual level characteristics and other country level variables. This finding provides a distinctive cross-national evidence for the debate on the relationship between economic integration to global economy and economic insecurity. It also clearly suggests that the effect of globalization on economic insecurity would be a significant factor of the public opinion formation on the trade liberalization policies and foreign investment.

What do Global Value Chains and Social Networks have in Common? Advancing a Network Perspective for the Analysis of Development in the Global Economy

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The objective of this paper is to propose merging some of the underlying measures of social network analysis with global value chains (GVC). Since the beginning of 1990s, research from diverse fields has shown that the mechanisms for growth generation in the global economy have changed and a new ontology of economic organization is emerging. Human agency, represented by networks or interorganizational relations is increasingly affecting the configuration of social structure, by way of its negative impact on global development. Conversely, social structure is reconfiguring the actions of constituent identities. Pooling analytical measures from the GVC and social network approaches and applying these to the coffee market, I observe that the actions of constituent identities in the market reflect decisions made under increasing uncertainty regarding their own (egocentric) and their partners’ (altercentric) performance. This situation has negative impact on development. A new method and framework for the analysis of development in the global economy is proposed and it is observed that supplier upgrading can emerge not only from the potential of structural holes, but also from the degree of incoming sociality directed at a node.

“To Lend, or Not to Lend?”: A Case Study of a Chinese Commercial Bank’s Decision-Making on Corporate Loans

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This paper sets the sociological literature on money and banking in the context of China’s recent effort to rejuvenate its state-owned commercial banks. The study specifically addresses the question of why Chinese state banks do not lend to more successful private enterprises and medium/small sized businesses. Using ethnographic methods, the author examined a regional state bank’s internal work procedure, social networks, and the bank’s relationship with local government and firms, in order to present alternative explanations to those found in the economic and finance literatures. The author found that local high level managers, relationship managers, and supporting personnel in regional state-owned banks find themselves in a web of political considerations, personal connections, and institutional goal-meeting pressure. Their decisions of whether or not making a loan to a certain firm are never simple calculations of plain profit making.

Leisure and Sport

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Poker and Its Less Popular Relatives: High School Gambling and the General Theory of Status Relations

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The last several years have witnessed a marked increase in poker play among male teenage youth. While adolescent risk scholars traditionally focus on lottery, scratch-card, and slot machine gambling, the 2005 National Annenberg Risk Survey of Youth reports that 12.5% of teenage boys bet on cards at least once a week. Drawing on theory developed by sociologist Murray Milner, this paper ties the patterns of male poker play uncovered by the NARSY survey to the status systems that are the central organizing concern in U.S. adolescent communities. The finding that the approval of friends is a primary factor predicting card play supports the idea that poker participation is determined by the adolescent quest for status. Building on this interpretation, the paper goes on to introduce a model of adolescent betting sensitive to the way in which a game's structural features influences which individuals will be attracted to that activity. While previous scholarship has failed to analyze gambling activities relative to their location in adolescent society, this paper splits gambling forms into two groups: private/social gambling and public/solitary gambling. The finding that significantly more social teenage gamblers participate in extracurricular activities and sports than solitary teenage gamblers suggests that the two categories attract individuals coming from significantly different locations in the adolescent community.

Gambling as a Way of Life

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The disease model of Pathological Gambling (PG) posits that there is an underlying sickness, the source of which resides in the individual. Akin to the disease model of alcoholism, the disease model of PG contends that there are vulnerable individuals genetically predisposed to PG and develop the disorder if they take up gambling. Although ideas about the course of PG vary, at its foundation, the disease model of PG is characterized by an individual's "persistent and recurrent maladaptive gambling behavior" (American Psychiatric Association, 1994) where there is a progression in the frequency of gambling episodes, amount of money wagered, and preoccupation with gambling. During the past thirty years, psychiatric researchers have authored more than 2,500 peer-reviewed studies on PG; but the corpus of verifiable, empirically substantiated knowledge of PG-as-disease is far from substantial. For this reason, the sociological study of heavy gambling warrants serious study. This paper seeks to extend the purview beyond an essentialist disease model, beyond those individuals who are self-selected into treatment programs, screened and diagnosed as PGs, and toward a more naturalistic rendering of gambling as a way of life. In doing so, what emerges is a larger and more varied group of gamblers for whom the activity of gambling guides and profoundly shapes the nature of social interaction in their everyday lives.

Peddling the Street: The Construction and Consumption of Black Masculinity in the NBA (adapted from Under the Boards: The Cultural Revolution in Basketball, University of Nebraska Press, 2007)

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At least since star player Allen Iverson's 1996-97 debut season in the National Basketball Association (NBA), which coincided with the murders of two of hip-hop's all-time best-selling artists, 2Pac and Notorious B.I.G., the popular notion of the hip-hop athlete—brandishing a bravado and theatricality immersed in movement, dress, and speech (what Majors (1990) calls the "cool pose")—has served as the dominant image of the black NBA player. In a sports league whose player population has roughly remained between 70 and 80 percent black over the last thirty years while its front office has remained overwhelming white, the presentation of its public face demands scrutiny. How do league management, partnering companies producing consumer goods, and the players collectively negotiate and sell representations of black masculinity? What are these representations based on? How have they changed over the past thirty years? I answer these questions through a content analysis of products (games included) produced by the NBA and its partners as well as a structural analysis of the NBA bureaucracy and the amateur basketball system in the United States that develops and delivers young, predominantly black players to the league. I examine the implications of sneaker companies financing and coordinating American amateur basketball on the socialization of young athletes. This recent structural shift in amateur basketball places greater emphasis on the individual reputation and one-on-one (rather than team) skills of young ballplayers.

"I Just Do What I Want": Female Rugby Players and the Task of Maintaining Individual Agency inside Structural Constraints

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This paper is an analysis of 12 in-depth interviews with female rugby players. These women seem in many ways to be part of a social movement, working together for women's inclusion in the male-dominated realm of sport. At the same time, the majority of these women choose not to consider themselves feminists, and they express mixed feelings about being identified as political actors at all. In this paper I examine these female athletes' perspectives about gender and power through their comments on 1) structural gender inequality, 2) personal experiences of gender inequality, and 3) experiences of agency – that is, experiences of being an exception to a rule. In almost all cases, responses on these three points were self-contradictory, as were respondents' descriptions of their own gender identities. I suggest three explanations for the contradictory answers.

Using Demographic Methods to Understand Diverse Populations

Co-sponsored by Princeton University's Office of Population Research

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The Mental Health Burden of Spousal Caregivers of Cancer Patients

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If there were ever a time when a person might be vulnerable to mental illness, caring for his/her spouse with serious cancer would appear to be one of those times. This paper aims to investigate the mental health burden of spousal caregivers of cancer patients based on a national longitudinal dataset of one million married elder couples' Medicare data (from 1990-2003). Specifically, this paper will discuss how prevalent and chronic psychiatric morbidities are among spousal caregivers of cancer partners, what risk factors are related to their psychiatric morbidities and how the psychiatric morbidities vary across different types of cancers. A series of statistical models in survival analysis including the Cox model with and without shared frailty and parametric regressions with shared frailty will be fitted to provide empirical results.

HIV Infection, Marital Dissolution, and Migration in Malawi

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Research on migration and HIV infection in sub-Saharan Africa typically finds that migrants are at higher risk of HIV infection because they are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior than non-migrants and tend to move to areas of higher HIV prevalence. Instead of focusing on ways in which, as it is often stated, "migration is an independent individual risk factor of HIV infection," I examine the possibility that HIV infection leads to migration. Using a longitudinal dataset of rural residents and migrants from Malawi, I find that migrants originating from rural areas are indeed more likely than non-migrants to be HIV positive and to have engaged in HIV risk behavior. However, HIV positive individuals are also more likely migrate than HIV negative individuals. The explanation for this phenomenon appears to be marital instability, which occurs more frequently among HIV positive individuals and leads to migration after marital dissolution.

Bundling of Welfare and the Elderly on Food Stamps: A Comparative Perspective

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In this paper I undertake an event history analysis of the duration of receipt of food stamps for an elderly population (age 60+ years). The data includes all first-time entrants into the food stamp program from 1993-1999 in Rhode Island. I compare the elderly population with the working age population. About 7% of all first entrants into the food stamp program are individuals over 60 years of age. Older populations are characterized by a longer duration of receipt than the working age population; however, their potential re-entry into the program is at a slower rate than the working age population. Most research on welfare receipt focuses on labor market variables such as education and employment characteristics. However, in the case of an elderly population such variables are less relevant to an understanding of food stamp receipt. In this paper I focus particularly on the 'bundling' of welfare benefits (or the enrollment of an individual in more than one welfare program) as predictors of the duration of welfare receipt and the likelihood of re-entry. I find that bundling of welfare benefits has a significant impact on duration of receipt for food stamps. I also focus on the neighborhoods within which elderly food stamp recipients reside as a source of variation or 'neighborhood effects'.

Declining Son Preference and Rising Gender Indifference in Korea and Taiwan since 1990

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This study explains the change of son preference and "gender indifference" of the sex preference for children among Korean and Taiwanese women of childbearing age after 1990; over time the women became more neutral about the sex when asked of their ideal number of children and proportion of women who wanted more boys than girls declined as well. Using three waves of cross-sectional data for married-women of childbearing age in both countries since 1990, the research finds that (1) more female education predicts a decline son preference and a rise in indifference about children's sex in both individual and aggregate level, (2) education attainment of the younger birth cohorts of women is considerably higher than that of the older cohorts, and (3) as the young cohorts come into childbearing age with more education and hence less son preference and as they gradually replace the older cohorts over time, son preference of the society declines and gender indifference rises. The possibility of reverse causation ---gender egalitarianism leads women to acquire more education rather than education influences women's gender ideology---seems unjustified because education was tightly controlled by authoritarian regimes in both countries and an increase in school enrollment was mostly contributed by the government's man power planning to meet the need from industry.

Topics in the Sociology of Education

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Affect and Commitment: An Exploratory Study of White Female Teachers' Emotional Resilience in Urban Schools

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This paper will present a perspective on how the social and cultural dynamic in urban environments interface with teachers emotions, impacting coping processes and resilience in the environmental context. The paper is drawn from a larger study which explores how successful veteran white female teachers negotiate their identity in urban spaces to accommodate the teaching and learning of black and brown students.

The goal of this study is to develop a theoretical model highlighting the relationship between workplace emotions and teacher longevity in urban environments with socio-cultural dynamics as moderators. This study is aligned to emerging literature that links psychoanalysis and teaching to the social, cognitive and affective domain of the teachers' experience in the urban classroom. The study will have implications for teacher recruitment and retention for urban schools.

High-Stakes Testing and Teacher Resistance: New York City Schools in an Era of Increased Accountability

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The New York State Regents Exams have served for over a century in dictating the higher education aspirations of youths statewide. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 and various state laws have mandated a renewed emphasis on testing. This paper studies the effects of these new laws and standards on teachers in New York City and how they cope with pressures that are placed on them by students, parents, administrators, and other teachers and how that is played out within the organizational framework of the school. Another concept this paper builds upon is test score pollution. Test score pollution focuses on teachers and administrators rather than students and is used to describe factors that affect the validity of test scores. Some test score pollution strategies include: "teaching to the test," dismissing low-achieving students on the day of the test, and teachers altering response sheets or their interpretation of a response while scoring. One type of test score pollution that is reported to occur in the state of New York is "scrubbing," where teachers change the outcome of a student's regents exam grade from failing to passing while grading these high stakes exams. A better definition of the term scrubbing along with gradations is introduced. It is alleged that scrubbing is used in order to improve the passing percentage of schools on regents exams. Another goal of the study is to determine to what extent and under what circumstances scrubbing occurs.

Teacher Expectations and Student Achievement: How Important is Student Race?

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With the enactment of No Child Left Behind, attention has focused on the importance of teacher expectations as causes of student achievement. Using the 2002 base-year and 2004 follow-up waves of the Education Longitudinal Study, this paper applies the counterfactual framework to examine the effect of math teacher expectations on math achievement for white, black, and Hispanic students. School fixed-effects models are estimated for 10th grade math achievement and math achievement gains between 10th and 12th grade. In the short run, teachers' expectations have the greatest impact on improving white students' math scores. In the long run, black students experience that greatest achievement gains to having teachers who hold them to higher standards, while Hispanic students experience the least achievement gains. The weighted results using the counterfactual method show similar patterns of achievement, and suggest that students who are normally held to lower expectations would benefit greatly from high teacher expectations. The implications of these findings are discussed with respect to the policy goals of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Understanding Networks

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In Japan, Volunteering Is Endearing but Networking Is Not Working: Why Group Goals Matter for Bridging Social Capital

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This paper makes use of conceptual tools from cultural sociology to re-examine certain assumptions about how societies can increase their stock of “bridging social capital.” It is currently axiomatic that “bridging associations,” meaning networks and organizations composed of people from different backgrounds and social positions, create bridging social capital by instilling inclusive outlooks in individuals. According to this premise, both wide-ranging social networks and volunteer or not-for-profit groups should instill inclusive outlooks in their members and, in turn, increase a society’s stock of bridging social capital. By applying cultural sociological methods, this paper shows that all bridging associations are not equally effective in broadening their members’ outlooks. I posit that the ability of a bridging association to broaden its members’ outlooks depends on whether the association’s goals are “inward-looking,” meaning that it serves the interests of its members, or “outward-looking,” meaning that it works for the common good. I examine these hypotheses using data from the nationally representative 1995 Social Stratification and Mobility (SSM) survey from Japan. Results indicate that the posited difference between volunteer groups and wide-ranging social networks are correct. The policy implications of these findings are addressed in the conclusion.

From Socializing to Networking? The Relationship between Social Capital and Internet Use

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A growing number of sociologists have been arguing that the internet revolution is linked to a fundamental structural shift in individuals’ social networks. Whereas some emphasize the web’s potential for bridging social distance, as well as its effect on access to resources, others suggest that its technologically-mediated interconnectedness is alienating and might be related to an increase in social isolation in America in the last two decades. Yet while it is becoming evident that internet users vary in how they surf the web, only few of these studies rely on distinctions beyond the dichotomy between users and non-users. Using the Social Networks module of the 2004 General Social Survey, this paper explores the relationship between internet and sociability by focusing on the qualitative differences between users. It rejects the hypothesis that the internet is accountable for the increase in social isolation in recent years, and demonstrates that skillfully surfing the web affords better access to various forms of social capital. At the same time, however, it finds that internet use is related to individuals’ social network structure, as well as to their interaction with family and friends and the values they associate with it. This suggests that as the social landscape is changing so are the practices and competencies necessary for successfully navigating it.

The Social Organization of Free Software Production

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This paper analyzes the production activities of the Gentoo Linux free software community - 500 developers working on 18000 software projects over 7 years – to determine the factors that influence developer allocation to projects over time. This leads to a characterization of the community as an organization, drawing on the ideal types hierarchy, market and network. This paper describes the governance mechanisms and the technology used by a free software community, as well as an overview of how the community has evolved. Against this backdrop, hypotheses are derived from two models of social organization - status systems and social networks. These hypotheses are tested in a quantitative analysis of the factors that determine whether a developer will join a project or not.

How developers join projects is important because they determine the allocation of resources, but also because they determine the makeup of the organizational unit the team. Joins are also the most social developer movements, because they bring developers into closer proximity. In a join, the attributes and configuration of the project members as well as the attributes and situation of the developer comes into play and can be observed.

Measuring Personal Network Size: A Comparison of Five Measures of Degree for Respondent-Driven Sampling Analysis

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Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) is a new chain-referral sampling and analysis method that is now widely used in studies of hidden populations, such as those at high risk for HIV/AIDS. Traditionally, chain-referral samples have been viewed as convenience samples because ties connecting individuals in a population, and therefore the paths along which a referral chain can progress, are not made randomly.

This paper compares five measures of individual degree from a web-based RDS study of 159 undergraduates. First, two measures, sum of race and sum of gender, represent a common “improvement” to standard measures by soliciting the number of contacts within exclusive categories and summing the replies. Second, the buddylist measure represents a measure less susceptible to recall bias. Third, consistent with online sampling, an email contacts measure is tested. Finally a standard measure, the number of contacts one has within the population, is included.

The results show all measures to be highly correlated with near perfect correlation between the standard and summed measures. A comparison with institutional data suggests that while no one measure stands out as a clear best, measures most closely associated with the recruitment event perform better than others.

Discussing Civil Society

Robin Rogers-Dillon, Discussant
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Can Arts Associations Provide Civics Education? Governance Experience, Community Relations, and Social Capital Opportunities in Choral Societies

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Since Tocqueville (1835) made his classic claims about voluntary associations as “schools of democracy,” scholars have sought evidence that apolitical groups actually perform this role. Recently, choral societies have been used as hallmark examples of associations that might generate civic benefits. A recent study estimates the number of U.S. choruses at 250,000 and calculates that 18% of U.S. households have at least one choral singer (Chorus America 2003); clearly, these associations are a major piece of civil society in the U.S. But just how “civic” are choruses? Limited ethnographic work suggests a potential for civic learning (Eastis 1998). But do most choruses provide opportunities for civic development? Do all groups provide the same chances? And do choruses provide more or less opportunities than other associations? I answer these questions using new data collected from 26 independent choruses in the Boston area. I describe the structure of civic opportunities provided by these choruses and the extent to which opportunities vary across groups. I then systematically compare these groups to other sets of political and apolitical associations. Choral societies appear to offer as many-- and in some ways, more-- substantial opportunities for civic development among members than their politics and service based counterparts.

Fair Trade and the Social Dynamics of Moral Boundaries

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Altruistic consumers emphasize the moral and political implications of shopping in order to increase the perceived value of socially responsible products and to improve the social and economic living conditions of producers. But they are careful in how they activate moral boundaries. They do not want to come off as “too preachy” and do not want to alienate consumers who may not care about where the stuff they buy comes from, who made it, or how the producers benefit by selling their products. As such, there are situations where consumers introduce strong moral boundaries in conversations; there are times when they justify or deflect attention away from morals and towards price, quality or taste; and there are still other occasions where they “willfully ignore” these issues. In this paper I describe the social dynamics influencing the activation of moral boundaries and provide a counter-balance to theories that treat moral boundaries as an expression of an individual’s belief system or identity. This paper is grounded in cultural and economic sociology and is based on participant observation and over 100 interviews with consumers, activists, store owners, and managers of Fair Trade coffee and handicrafts.

Arts and Culture

Jennifer Lena, Discussant
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Toward a Leisure Theory of Value: The Game of Bird-Watching and the Concern for Conservation in Great Britain

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The proposed paper investigates the leisure activities involved in the game of bird-watching in order to provide an answer to the question why wild birds are the most popular and best protected taxonomic group of wildlife in Britain. What looks random from the outside becomes meaningful if considered from the point of view of the practices and institutions in which it is embedded. Central to the theoretical explanation of the phenomenon is the identification of bird-watching as a game. The paper shows how the valuation of wild birds derives from their particularly suitable status as “toys” on the “playground” of nature. Based on archival and ethnographic data, the paper shows how governmental as well as non-governmental nature conservation organizations build on this leisure activity and try to both foster and employ the game of bird-watching for their goals. Timing, outlook, and success of these efforts can in turn be demonstrated to reflect an overall transformation of the structure of leisure in Britain. Throughout the twentieth century leisure gradually transformed from a class characteristic (with the aristocracy as leisured class) into a life-cycle characteristic (with adolescents and pensioners as leisured “classes”). By considering the game of bird-watching as an integral part of the concern for conservation, the paper departs from the still dominant trend in the social sciences to treat the world of labor as a primary category and the world of leisure as a secondary or residual category of investigation.

The New Urban Craftsman: Craft and Community in Post-Industrial Brooklyn

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The post-industrial economy has arrived, and its features are more or less as promised: the manufacturing economy shrinks and the service economy grows. There are now more choreographers in the U.S. than there are metal-casters, more card dealers than lathe operators, more security guards than machinists. Yet even as the post-industrial economy gathers speed, there is a growing interest in older patterns of work and life, which generates interesting new social forms. This paper examines one such development, the phenomenon of the new urban craftsman. Based on participant observation and in-depth interviews, this paper explores the work of young, highly educated furniture makers in gentrifying Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Analyzing an atypical activity — the design and construction of unique handmade objects — the project sheds light on the contours of craft production and the community that sustains it, as well as the operation of the larger system that makes craft work in the post-industrial city both possible and, for some, desirable. The paper also addresses the distinctive historical and experiential features of craft production, as well as the politics and possibilities inherent in the pursuit of such work in a particular time and place, 21st century Brooklyn.

Tradition, Modernity, and Authenticity in Riverdance

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The success of the Irish dance show Riverdance has brought Irish culture to unprecedented levels of popularity and exposure in the last 15 years. To some on the inside of the Irish dance world, however, Riverdance represents a break from “traditional” Irish dance as well as a commodification of the culture they hold so dear. But is Riverdance truly a break from traditional notions of Irish dance? This paper explores the Riverdance phenomenon and its place within Irish dance culture while reexamining our notions of tradition, modernity, and authenticity.

Artists and Works in the Museum’s Space

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Sociologists have approached art museums from the perspectives of audiences and organizations. This article provides an alternative understanding of what art museums do, focusing on the staging of works in permanent collections. Works displayed permanently are those most likely to influence the public notion of art, and determine the most important artists and works. The art museum defines the history of art through the staging of permanent venues in the museum’s space. A sociological interest in art museums stresses their exercise of institutional authority through the curatorial management of collections. The case of modern art illustrates the capacity of museums to synthesize an artistic period and attribute uneven degrees of recognition to artists and works. Using network analysis, I measure inequalities amongst modern artists in two large museums in New York. Through this analysis, this paper clarifies what definition of modern art museums deliver to the audience.

Migration in a Global Context

Co-sponsored by the Center for Migration and Development

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Boundary Formation in Action: Nationalism, Immigration, and Categorical Inequality

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Is massive migration from Mexico into certain areas of the United States diluting the distinctions between these two groups, or is it reproducing and magnifying cultural differences, national myths and traditions? What are the mechanisms blurring or reaffirming these exclusive national categorizations? How these categorizations get re-defined in the public discourse will have a big effect on the self-understandings of natives, migrants, as well as among non-migrants in the country of origin. The challenge then is to find how these exclusionary discourses diffuse and become part of the "common sense" of the citizenry and to show their implications for everyday interactions, self understandings, and political participation. This paper argues that boundary formation works at three levels: 1) as it affects migrants and non-migrants on everyday interactions at the micro level as can be observed through in-depth interviews and participant observation, 2) at the level of theory and normative arguments, to be found in the expert literature and, 3) at the legal and legislative levels including policy debates and discussion in the public sphere, observed through an analysis of newspaper articles and political speeches. This paper shows some of the boundary work deployed in the last years in order to keep Mexican immigrants outside of the boundary of "the American" by the deployment of the label of "illegal."

The Community of Immigrant Restaurant Workers

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This paper examines undocumented restaurant workers in Northeastern City using an ethnographic approach. The goal of this study is to understand how this population conducts their day-to-day interactions in their personal, social and working lives. The project investigates how the absence of legal documents to reside in the United States affects the complexities and peculiarities of immigrants' everyday lives. In this paper, I discuss the ways in which undocumented immigrants in my study create normative lives by maintaining close relations with friends and family back home, building new friendships and immersing into a fictive kin relationship with coworkers. The picture of the undocumented restaurant workers I sketch in this essay show that even though undocumented immigrants as a whole are surrounded by potential problems such as the threat of deportation, feelings of homesickness, and experiences of disrespect and neglect, individuals in my observational study are able to uphold a strong sense of community and belonging.

A View from the Inside: The Remittance-Development Link and the Case of Intipucá, El Salvador

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As remittances have reached unprecedented scales and as migrant diasporas have begun to engage actively and collectively as agents of development, both have gained prominence as tools for development. However, I argue that policy prescriptions have polarized this relationship and have consequently obscured vital nuances. One school of thought has adopted an overly optimistic view and has placed an exaggerated emphasis on maximizing remittances as viable development tools. Meanwhile the second school has assumed an overly pessimistic position, dismissing remittances as economic crutches and mere ephemeral solutions to poverty. Moreover, in general, the literature on the remittance-development link has emphasized impacts at the macro level and, as a result, has typically provided static, detached analyses at the national scale. To these ends, this paper focuses one Salvadoran municipality to provide a view of the remittance-development link from the inside and offers two key contributions. First, this paper reveals the complex and nuanced reality of the remittance-development link, countering overly simplistic and polarized depictions in the literature and policy that portray remittances as either a development panacea or calamity. Second, it exposes the on-the-ground reality of the development effects of remittances and reveals how the remittance-development link is perceived and experienced by those who live it first hand in their households and communities. In short, this paper contributes a comprehensive and anchored examination of both the positive and negative effects of family and collective remittances on development and draws conclusions about the importance of a balanced understanding of remittance-driven development.

Family and Youth

Co-Sponsored by the Center for Research on Child Well-Being

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Resurgence of the “Separate Spheres” Arrangement? The Effect of Spousal Overwork on the Employment of Men and Women in Dual-Earner Households

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This study shows that the prevalence of long work hours exacerbates gender inequality. As working long hours have become increasingly common, it has caused a conflict for both men and women in many dual-earner households, but a normative conception of gender may place more pressure on women than on men to quit their jobs. This study investigates how spousal overwork negatively affects women’s careers by interacting with a strong gendered norm that prioritizes men’s careers in dual-earner households. By applying multilevel models to longitudinal data drawn from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, this study demonstrates that having a husband who works more than 50 hours per week significantly increases women’s likelihood of quitting, while having a wife who works long hours does not appear to increase men’s odds of quitting. The gendered effect was found to be greater among workers in professional and managerial occupations, where the norm of overwork is stronger than in other occupations. Furthermore, the effect is more dramatic among workers who have children. The findings of this study suggest that the prevalence of overwork can reintroduce the separate spheres arrangement, which consists of breadwinning men and homemaking women, to many formerly dual-earner households.

Parental Dependence, Socialization, and Hindered Development in Career

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Current demographic research has shown that the transition to adulthood has become increasingly prolonged, disorderly, and reversible. Today, young adults experience fluctuating jobs and longer periods of unemployment. Through qualitative in-depth interviews with 28 middle-to-upper-class young adults, I have aimed to understand how parents may have played a role in their hindered career development. Based on their narratives, I have found that the majority of my participants were socialized with openness and freedom, which may have had negative repercussions on them as adults. Ironically, in encouraging children to value exploration and independence, parents may have hindered their adult children’s self-sufficiency. The juxtaposition of openness with high goals has proved difficult to reconcile; these young adults end up with unrealistic ideals of perfection. Finally, the prolonged parental support—particularly financial—of adult children enables them to continue to explore career possibilities, and to persist on the unrealistic search for the perfect job, and fails to provide young adults with the incentive to become independent, self-sufficient, and productive members of society.

Marriage Choices of Women in Rural China: 1949--2000

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This paper uses intensive case studies to investigate marriage choices as well as their role as vehicle for women’s social mobility in rural China in three historical periods. During 1949-1966, the socialist revolution undermines women’s security-seeking inquiry in marriage, while political correctness became a dominant theme in choosing one’s spouse. During 1966-1976, people with a favorable position in the command economy such as the urban registration were considered “ideal” spouses, though there was a degradation of cadres and intellectuals who were dismissed and expelled for political reasons. As the reform unfolds after 1980, market values gradually gain its significance in social labeling and social stratification. As means of increasing economic and social status, a “successful” marriage implies an opportunity of upward mobility of women as well as their children. The paper examines how marriage strategies are enacted and geared towards what women wish to attain, which varies by time periods, though rapid social changes result in personal frustrations when earlier strategies no longer reap benefits.

Parental Depression and Children's Developmental Outcomes: The Mediating Influence of Maternal Neglect, Parenting Stress, and Mastery

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This paper uses data from the Fragile Families and Child Well-being survey, a longitudinal study of nearly 5,000 new and mostly unmarried parents in 20 U.S. cities, to look at the relationship between parental depression and developmental outcomes of three-year-old children. Results suggest that parental depression, particularly maternal depression, is associated with children's behavioral but not cognitive outcomes. Compared to children of consistently healthy mothers, children of consistently depressed mothers have less favorable behavioral outcomes (including anxious/depressed, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), aggressive, and oppositional defiant disorder (ODD)). Maternal depression that emerges between the child's first and third birthdays is also predictive of worse behavioral outcomes in children, while children's behavior does not seem to suffer when mothers improve their psychological resources over time. Children of mothers whose depression remits do not experience any lasting effects. Additionally, maternal parenting characteristics completely attenuate the relationship between parental depression and behavioral outcomes. This research extends past literature by using a large, non-clinical, and representative sample; by incorporating reports of both parents; and, importantly, by elucidating mechanisms that underlie the association between parental depression and child well-being. These findings underscore the importance of understanding the consequences of parental depression and have substantial implications for social policy.

Identity and Boundaries

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Mind the Gap: Ways of Navigating Difference and Spaces Between

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Feminist theorists and ethnographers write of borders, boundaries, and crossings to construct theoretical and metaphorical depictions of the effects on women of colonization, tourism, immigration/emigration, and other transformative events. Each of us has a network of boundaries which imply power relationships with others – economic, social, political, personal – and which create the potential for different degrees and forms of permeability or domination.

Women in these states employ an array of coping methods. Yet Mohanty tells us that “feminism without borders” is a globally urgent project; the widest feminism must “be attentive to borders while learning to transcend them.” I suggest that borders have a “space between,” which, though a potential site of disturbance, offers a place for translation, understanding, and reconciliation where people and cultures can experience Trinh’s “empowering practice of difference.” The idea, “minding the gap,” urges the consciousness and engagement of the dominant in co-creating this mutually harmonious space.

Constructing Integration: The Alchemy of the Photograph

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There is something fascinating to most people about the fates of their childhood friends; my own curiosity was satisfied when I tracked down the members of this photograph and interviewed each participant about their individual life. The photograph itself was advantageous, serving several purposes: it was the departure point for my dissertation project, and it enabled me, as a researcher, to gain “access” to my informants. Moreover, it served as a mnemonic device during interview sessions, helping my subjects to construct a past about themselves and Evanston, Illinois, the community in which we all grew up. Initially, I was interested in exploring the groups’ life trajectories and the role that race, class, and gender played in shaping individual opportunities. However, as the project unfolded, I was equally intrigued by the disconnect between my subjects’ seemingly utopian memories of Evanston and what I considered to be the harsh, brutal reality of racism. The photograph engendered both perspectives; it revealed the prevailing ideologies of integration and equality as well as the falsehoods intrinsic to each narrative. This paper explores the utility of the photograph through different developmental stages of the research project.

Boundaries and Bridges: Aboriginal-White Relations in Northwestern Ontario

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While much has been written about the history of colonial oppression and forced assimilation, few scholars recently have examined the boundaries and bridges between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals in contemporary North America. Using in-depth interviews, participant-observation, and an innovative “photovoice” methodology, I begin to shed light on (1) the sources of conflict and separation, and (2) the sources of co-operation and healthy relationships, through an intensive field-based study in the Rainy River District of Northwestern Ontario. Preliminary findings reveal a sharp gap in perceived boundaries and bridges: whereas Aboriginals offer substantial evidence of ongoing white racism and ignorance of treaty rights, many non-Aboriginals point to cultural differences and First Nations’ refusal to assimilate to mainstream Canadian norms. Although some positive inter-group relationships and co-operative settings are observed, potential bridges are often tainted by non-Natives’ sense of threat and lack of understanding or appreciation of Aboriginal histories and worldviews. At the same time, a minority of white Canadians are actively anti-racist, even forming organizations to speak out against racism and in support of Native rights. A new theoretical framework, which integrates the cultural materialist approach to boundary work with the group position model and other prominent theories of racism, is proposed to explain variations in white racial orientations. Hypotheses are also developed concerning the choice and efficacy of the anti-racist strategies of First Nations and Métis persons.

“All of a sudden you are just thrown into this.”: The Interactional Marketplace in Korean Adoptee Gatherings

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In August of 2007, the International Korean Adoptee Associations (IKAA) Gathering was held in Seoul, Korea. Over six hundred Korean adoptees from seventeen countries traveled to Seoul---some for the first time since being adopted---to take part in this momentous event. At face value, it may seem that among the adoptee participants there would be a great sense of unity and group solidarity in such a gathering. However, this paper complicates this notion, illustrating how feelings of collective effervescence and group solidarity largely depended on the success and failure of interaction rituals. Drawing on participant observation and semi-structured interviews with Gathering participants, I show how nationality, pre-existing social ties, and age all contributed to an interactional marketplace that both created and hindered opportunities to connect with other Korean adoptee participants.

Sociological Perspectives on International Issues

Co-sponsored by the Princeton Institute for International Regional Studies

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School Expansion and Educational Stratification in China, 1981--2006

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This study examines the trends in educational stratification during China's economic reforms from 1981 to 2006. By using the panel data from the "China Health and Nutrition Survey", it matches school-age children to their parents' background information and investigates whether and how the effects of family background on children's educational transitions change across time and across the urban-rural residential status. Empirical results show that educational inequality in access to senior high school, measured by class differentials and urban-rural differentials, has increased during 1993-1998 and decreased in 1999-2006. Additionally, inequality at the college level has been largely strengthened since 1999: the effects of most social background measures like household income, father's class status, and rural residential status have shifted up in the period. Results also show that, in spite of an overall quick increase in transition rates to college since 1999, access to higher education has become much easier than before for urban children, but much more difficult for rural children, especially for those from low-income rural families. As going to college is one main avenue for rural children to move out of their rural origin, our results indicate that rural children's mobility chances via higher education are actually decreased in the new century. These findings, together with the increased inequality in the reform era, suggest that contemporary China is now experiencing a trend towards social reproduction rather than de-stratification.

Knowledge Production in Social Movements as a Multi-level Power Game: Lessons from Brazil

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Based on a literature review and data collected among organizations involved in Popular Education in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this paper advocates a research design for the study of knowledge-making within social movements that takes into account the following factors:

1. the relationship between different categories of actors within the movements and among the organizations with which they interact;
2. the impact of the knowledge produced on the moral, political and economic aspects of the agency of social movement participants, in the form of outcomes at four levels:
 - a. awareness that participants have of their own abilities and capacity for autonomous action;
 - b. their technical and management ability;
 - c. their understanding of social dynamics;
 - d. their capacity to intervene politically.

The Ties That Bind: The Story of the Integrated Schools in Northern Ireland

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This paper reviews the literature on the movement in Northern Ireland to create "integrated" schools that co-educate Catholics and Protestants in the attempt to alleviate the pervasive segregation of and hostility between these two groups in the larger society. A brief history of the region is included to illuminate the theoretical background of the integration movement. Exploration of the literature shows that a gap exists between the concept of the integrated schools and their real-life application. Many of the schools are characterized by a pervasive "culture of avoidance," which precludes the open discussion of volatile topics. The paper discusses potential causes for this gap and provides suggestions for future directions of the movement. The paper also discusses the schools' effect on conflict resolution in a war-torn region and the creation of a Northern Irish identity as a way to end the Troubles.

Self-employment in Urban China's Market Transition: Multiple Destinations, Diverging Pathways

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We examine entry into self-employment in urban China over a 19-year period. We first disaggregate self-employment and conceptually identify three distinct class locations within self-employment: small employers, skilled, and unskilled individually self-employed. Using a national representative sample, we apply two analytical methods-event-history analysis of transition into self-employment and cross-sectional analysis of the three self-employment categories-to test hypotheses drawn from four theories on the determinants of entry into self-employment. Evidence shows significant differences between types of self-employment and demonstrate three diverging pathways leading to them. Unskilled individual self-employment provides a refuge from poverty for disadvantaged individuals. But for entry into skilled employment, cultural capital plays a crucial enabling role. The small employers, on the other hand, are more likely to come from pre-revolution bourgeois families. Surprisingly, political capital had no positive effect on the odds of entering any form of self-employment at any time point. There are, however, pronounced gender differences in entry into self-employment, with women more responsive to family situations, while men's advantage in self-employment increasing with rising marketization. This study shows both the utility of examining trajectory adjustment in studying social change in post-socialist transitions, and the limitation of the political capitalism theory.

Conversations about Cultural Sociology

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“Who Will Subsidize Our Emotional World?” Toward a Critique of Multiculturalism

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Based on three years’ ethnography with the Israeli Andalusian Orchestra, I ask what neo-liberal multi-culturalism means for second generation Jewish immigrants from Morocco, who come from the periphery, but aspire to be part of Israeli high culture. From my ethnography, an ethnography of difference, we learn that: 1. Neo-liberal multi-culturalism confront questions of funds with questions of multi-culturalism, members of the orchestra refuse to employ ethnic categories in defining themselves, saying “If Beethoven was ethnic, then I’m ethnic”, unless they will get economic support. 2. To the chagrin of oriental intellectuals (Bhabha:1994), the members of the orchestra do not claim to represent oriental culture, but rather Israeli culture, thus critiquing the concept of multi-culturalism: that is, they refuse to accept difference as an absolute value, or to be trapped within the stagnancy of a sub-culture. Their insistence on conceptualizing themselves as doing Israeli culture ensures their location at the cultural-economic center, rather than at its periphery, where they would have legitimacy but no material funds. 3. The bureaucracy of difference, based on multi-cultural thinking, which the orchestra has to deal with when requesting financial support from the Culture Administration, shows us that the state’s neo-liberal policy of budgeting according to criteria actually creates social groups as “minorities”, even when that is not how they wish to be seen.

Homophily and Cultural Reproduction in the Labor Market

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Homophily – defined here as the preference for others similar to oneself – plays a crucial role in shaping the structure and content of social relations. Numerous scholars have demonstrated that individuals prefer to interact with people who are demographically similar to themselves, and that these micro-level preferences contribute to macro-level patterns of social and economic inequality. However, whether particular characteristics are stronger sources of interpersonal attraction than others remains unexamined. Using quantitative and qualitative evidence from real-life hiring decisions in elite professional services firms, this paper investigates a) the extent to which interviewer-interviewee similarity impacts interviewers’ evaluations of candidates, and b) whether particular types of similarity play a stronger role in candidate assessment than others. Based on analysis of hiring records and in-depth interviews with interviewers, the author finds that cultural and experiential similarities (i.e., matches in tastes, life histories, hobbies, and interests) have greater impacts on candidate evaluations than ascriptive similarities (i.e., gender and race). The mechanisms underlying these results are described alongside the implications of these findings for recent developments in economic sociology, cultural sociology, social stratification, and social psychology.

Reconciling the “Hostile Worlds” of Cultural Sociology and Social Psychology: An Outline for a Methodological Bridge

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This paper bridges the analytical and methodological divides between cultural sociology and social psychology by outlining a pragmatic framework for assessing the impact of cultural schemas on individual behavior and affect. The proposed approach is founded upon a synthesis of Sewell’s conception of cultural schemas and Griswold’s methodological focus on intention and reception. To advance the framework, a distinction is introduced between “toolkit” schemas – those schemas that have taken cognitive hold – and inductively-derived schemas that are attributed by social analysts to make sense of empirically-observed patterned behavior. Two examples drawn from the economic sociology and organization culture literature are used to illustrate the approach. The first refers to Zelizer’s argument against the popular “hostile worlds” view that money corrupts intimacy. Using the proposed framework, I demonstrate how Zelizer’s favored perspective is in fact compatible with the refuted “hostile worlds” perspective. The second example illustrates how competing organizational schemas directly influence the affective experience of individuals within work settings. I conclude with a brief discussion of the framework’s implications, including the contestation for schematic control and the diffusion of “toolkit” schemas.

“The Anti-‘Economic’ Economy of Pure Art”: Bourdieuan Discourse of Legitimation among Professional Dominatrices

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During fieldwork with pro-dommes (dominatrices) on an unrelated topic, an unexpected and salient discourse emerged: subjects interpreted their sessions with clients as artistic and made the distinction between “real” (“lifestyle”) dommes and those whose interest in domination is solely financial. Their discourse is in line with what Bourdieu terms “the anti-‘economic’ economy of pure art,” employed by relatively autonomous avant-garde artists who ritually disavow economic criteria for success as a means to symbolically distance themselves from the commercial end of the art world. Data is derived from 28 in-depth interviews with pro-dommes in New York City, in addition to observational fieldwork at a dominatrix “dungeon” and a BDSM sex club, interviews with a male dom and participants in the New York BDSM “scene,” as well as several male clients. This analysis tugs at the boundaries of Bourdieu’s theory of artistic legitimation, pushing it beyond what we might typically consider “artistic” (such as visual art or literature) and locating Bourdieu in an unexpected social space.

Topics in Political Sociology

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Iconicity of Peaceful Revolution: Comparative Study of Berlin and Warsaw, 1979--2004: A German Story

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By developing a comparative study of German and Polish transitional paths I try to show how social change is mediated, and in fact constituted, by the iconic practices performed in the capital cities. While majority of sociological studies devoted to the transition in Central and Eastern Europe have focused on various political and economic issues, this project aims at interpretively reconstructing the cultural logic of it. Interestingly enough, the pervasive nature of rapid social change at once discloses the specificity of the forms of iconicity and is unveiled by them.

My research is located at the intersection of two key dimensions: (1) the socio-temporal aspect of the liminal in Victor Turner's sense (i.e. the turbulent quarter of century defined by two highly symbolic social thresholds: the first Papal Mass in Warsaw in Spring 1979 and the inception of Solidarity movement, and the EU enlargement in Spring 2004); and (2) the spatio-cultural aspect of the numinous in Clifford Geertz's sense (i.e. the sacred centrality of the capital cities, Berlin and Warsaw). Applying a new non-reductive theory of iconicity within these empirical coordinates provides a fresh vantage point from which we can understand not only that largely unpredicted and surprisingly peaceful revolution of the Autumn of Nations but also the broader cultural significance of the capital city and the meaning of urban emplacement.

The Rise of Latin American Indigenous Movements? Framing the meaning of mobilization in Guatemala

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In analyzing the factors leading to an explosion of indigenous activism across Latin America, structural interpretations alone are insufficient. Social movements and collective action are inherently agentic in that they challenge the social and political status quo, and thus I advocate bringing agency back into their analysis. In this paper, I demonstrate how the "framing" approach can help identify agency within social movements, particularly by highlighting the strategic choices movement organizations and activists make about framing. I also argue that by closely examining how different actors within a social movement field "frame" their collective identity and claims, one can draw out hypotheses to explain the movement's emergence; such hypotheses may be markedly different from ones derived generated by structural theories, especially resource mobilization and political opportunity. I flesh out this argument through the case of the Guatemalan indigenous movement. At the same time, I try to re-situate this case in comparative perspective with other Latin American indigenous movements.

Understanding Radicalization: Insights from an Agent-Based Model

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In order to shed light on the process of radicalization (the adoption of violence for political ends), we constructed a computational agent-based simulation of a community in which radicalization occurs. In this simulated society we varied parameters such as community size, population homogeneity/diversity, and migration; examining how they affect the formation of self-starter radical cells. We have also looked at social venues, which we call "magnets", and modeled how they create new ties between agents. In agreement with case studies, we found that such venues radicalize even when they attract radicals and non-radicals alike. Additionally, we found that diversity weakens radicalization but population size has little effect.

How to Critique Modernization

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The notion of modernization has long been a hegemonic explanation for the hierarchies of global order. In recent decades, such perspectives have been criticized from theoretical positions such as postcolonial theory, world systems theory, or historical sociology. However, despite such critiques and the apparent failure of "modernizing" countries to overcome a disadvantaged position in the global hierarchy through "modernizing" means, the political life in countries such as Turkey continues to be dominated by perspectives that take "modernization" as a solution for problems for granted. I show that this paradox is partly related to the limitation of existing critiques of modernization which, while producing a more correct vision of social reality by disproving the progressive, teleological, essentialist models of historical change, often fall back on offering not an alternative to modernization, but alternative modernizations. I argue that critical social theory, as a critique of modes of operation and perception of existing social realities, cannot just consist of an epistemological intervention that aims to provide a "better" description of what social reality "is" relative to other theories. Rather, a critique should take its source from a political (and normative) claim that points at ways of transforming social reality. In short, any critical theory cannot be complete without the alternatives it proposes. Modernization critiques are "critical" because of their attention to power relations. However, their critiques do not entail an alternative to such a power-centered understanding of and practical orientation within social reality itself.

Discussant Profiles



Delia Baldassarri

WHAT ARE THE BASES OF POLITICAL INTEGRATION AND DIVISION?

By studying social actors at the intersection of the social categories and relational networks to which they belong, I aim to capture the dynamics of

identity formation and social influence that trigger political action and to connect attitudinal changes to broader processes of interest representation and mobilization.

An integrated society is not a society in which conflict and disparities are absent. Rather, it is one in which conflict expresses itself through crosscutting interests and identities. On the other hand, political and social division occurs when actors polarize around exclusive identities. In my research on public opinion polarization in the US, I look at the changes in partisanship, political preferences, and associational affiliations of American citizens and ask to what extent our society actually resembles the ideal of "political pluralism." By studying conflict and political division, I show how collective action originates from the simultaneity of shared interests and social identities within niches of sustained social interaction. In my earlier work on heuristics and voting behavior, I examined the cognitive shortcuts citizens use to understand politics and define their allegiances.

Taken together, my work looks at the cognitive, relational and structural bases of political participation and activism, addressing topics in collective action, political networks, social influence, public opinion, and voting behavior.

Paul Di Maggio

HOW DO NONECONOMIC FACTORS SHAPE SOCIAL INEQUALITY?

I have studied the impact of "cultural capital"--familiar and comfortable relationships to prestigious forms of culture – on

educational attainment, and found that high-school students high on this dimension more often graduate from college and marry better educated spouses than otherwise similar peers. I have also studied how people use social networks for significant purchases: homes, cars, legal assistance and home repairs. The market turns out to be far from impersonal: many Americans know their transaction partners personally, and those who do are more satisfied than others with the outcome. Now I am studying the impact of social class on use of new digital technologies and the connection between Internet use and income. High-status people more easily gain access to new technologies, and they employ them to reinforce their economic advantage. Yet all is not grim: working-class young men who are high in cultural capital are more likely to move into the middle class; the well-educated and prosperous have no lock on the social networks that lubricate market exchange; and young people have used their command of new technologies to move ahead more swiftly in the workplace. My research has helped me better understand both the tenacity of social distinction and the permeability of the class structure.



Discussant Profiles *continued*



Patricia Fernandez-Kelly

HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES APPEAR TO CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS?

Although their parents cross borders in search of the American Dream, the children of illegal aliens, most of them Mexican and

Central American, are increasingly being marginalized and are at risk of ending up in the 'rainbow underclass.' The same is true for many youngsters whose parents arrived from Haiti, Jamaica, or the Dominican Republic. Since 2002 I have been investigating the conditions surrounding second-generation immigrants in Southern Florida. Young people are adapting to our pluralistic society by shunning conventional employment and turning to entrepreneurship in order to secure independence and improve their standard of living. Whether as graffiti artists, singers, lyricists, photographers, or Internet Casino operators, the new immigrant generation is discovering innovative ways to define that which is American.

Angel Harris

WHY DOES ACADEMIC INEQUALITY ACROSS RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUPS PERSIST?

Education is becoming increasingly important for upward social mobility in the U.S. and abroad and has been linked to societal inequalities in health, income, and other life-chance measures. Thus, education plays a central role in social and economic well-being, particularly for women and minority groups. Given that the minority population within the U.S. has been steadily increasing and is projected to comprise 40 to 50 percent of the U.S. population in 2050, understanding racial differences in achievement is important for scholars, educators, and policy makers. My interests are on how perceptions about the opportunity structure and the system of social mobility influence the extent to which people invest in schooling. Thus, my research focuses on the social psychological determinants of the racial achievement gap. I have focused on identifying factors that contribute to African Americans' lower academic achievement and Asian Americans' higher academic achievement relative to Whites.



Discussant Profiles *continued*



Jennifer C. Lena

HOW IS CULTURE
MADE AND HOW DOES
IT WORK?

The goal of my research
is to understand the
social contexts within

which culture is produced and the forces that shape creative production and consumption. My fields of inquiry have telescoped out from an early interest in religious movements to my dissertation's focus on the social and artistic networks of rap artists, to a broad interest in the dynamics of innovation, diffusion, and consumption. I examine patterns of consumption driven by socially constructed identities, which influence and are influenced by strategic decision making by organizational actors within a field context shaped by demographic, political, legal, economic and social factors. I employ multiple methodologies in my work in order to track resources, including qualitative (interviews, participant-observation, content or document analysis) and quantitative approaches (traditional statistics and social network analysis). Recent work includes a study of the dynamic role of tradition at a country music festival, the development of music genres in the 20th century U.S., and a study of creativity on college campuses. I am currently developing a project on the role of elites' tastes in the production of mass culture.

Mary Clare Lennon

Mary Clare Lennon is Associate Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences in Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, and Director of Social Science Research at the National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University. She



earned her Ph.D. in sociology and a postdoctoral M.S. degree in biostatistics from Columbia University. Most of her research examines the relation of gender to physical and mental health problems and their treatment, with a focus on the roles of family and the workplace. In recent years, her research interests have focused on the well-being of low-income women and children. One current project examines how family socioeconomic circumstances-including wealth, income trajectories, and employment experiences-affect the psychological well-being of parents and children. Another recent research project examines mental health problems (especially depression) in low-income women. She explores the relation of depression to employment and welfare receipt, and focuses on treatment availability and utilization. An additional research area concerns the determinants of public attitudes toward welfare, poverty, and the working poor.

Discussant Profiles *continued*



Scott Lynch

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF RACIAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC INEQUALITY?

The impact of inequality-- both by race and socio-economic status - on health is dramatic. My research

investigates how the interrelationship between race, socioeconomic status, and health unfold across age and birth cohorts. As a life course sociologist, a social epidemiologist, and a demographer, I focus on both physical and mental health by looking at socioeconomic differences in health trajectories across adulthood, the pattern of the black-white gap in health and mortality across late adulthood, and the relationship between stress, social support, physical health and mental health in later life. As a methodologist, I am engaged in developing techniques that develop and then apply Bayesian Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods to answer research questions in social epidemiology and demography that typically cannot be easily answered using classical statistical methods. To that end, I am currently refining and extending a method for generating interval estimates of multistate life table quantities from hazard models with covariates.

Doug Massey

WHY IS INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION INCREASING AND WHY IS RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION SO HARMFUL?

By the late 20th century, every developed country had become an immigrant-receiving society, drawing migrants primarily from the developing world. Return to Aztlan focused on the social mechanisms promoting and sustaining emigration from Mexico to the United States. Worlds in Motion: Understanding International Migration at the End of the Millennium developed a theoretical synthesis to account for immigration. Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Age of Economic Integration used the same theoretical framework to analyze the history of Mexico-U.S. migration, offer a critique of past U.S. policies, and suggest avenues for future reform.

African Americans are uniquely segregated in American cities, and since the publication of American Apartheid, I have been working on the consequences of segregation for African Americans and Latinos of African ancestry. Segregation figured prominently in explanations for black underachievement in the Source of the River, and it interacts with shifts in the U.S. income distribution to yield a rising concentration of poverty that, in turn, intensifies social disorder and violence that undermines the health of African Americans, reduces their life expectancy, and impairs their cognitive development



Discussant Profiles *continued*



Alejandro Portes

HOW ARE THE CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS ADAPTING TO THE U.S. AND WHAT TIES DO THEY MAINTAIN WITH THEIR HOMELANDS?

Children of immigrants comprise one-in-five of Americans under age 18 and

the proportion is growing rapidly. One of my projects deals with their adaptation and the forces impinging on it. A second study focuses on the transnational organizations created by immigrants to the United States and their impact on the development of sending countries. A third pertains to Latin American large cities and their evolution during the last decades under the influence of neo-liberal adjustment policies. A fourth, just started, deals with the concept of "institutions" as currently used in economics and the ways in which sociological theory can improve and refine its uses in the field of development and others.

Robin Rogers-Dillon

Dr. Robin H. Rogers-Dillon is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center. Before coming to Queens College, she was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Scholar at Yale University (1998-2000) and received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania (1998). Professor Dillon's research interests include politics, policy, and religion. In 1995 and 1996, she was a Congressional Fellow on Women and Public Policy. She is the author of *The Welfare Experiments: Politics and Policy Evaluation*, Stanford University Press (2004) and the recipient of the 2003 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. She is also the Director of Honors in the Social Sciences and teaches in the CUNY Honors College.



Discussant Profiles *continued*



Martin Ruef

WHERE DO ORGANIZATIONS COME FROM?

While formal organizations (and the institutions that support them) are key features of the contemporary social landscape, sociologists have

only recently developed empirical descriptions of the processes that lead to their emergence. My research considers the social context of entrepreneurship from both a contemporary and historical perspective. Large-scale surveys of entrepreneurs in the United States permit me to explore team formation, innovation, exchange processes, and boundary maintenance in nascent startups. My historical analyses address entrepreneurial activity leading to the founding of U.S. medical schools since the 18th century and the organizational transformation of Southern agriculture and industry in the post-bellum period.

Arthur Stinchcombe

Areas of interest include law and society; science and technology; economy and society. He used quantitative methods in *Rebellion in a High School* and in *Crime and Punishment* (with co-authors); historical methods in *Theoretical Methods in Social History and Economic Sociology*, and field methods in the studies of organizations reported in

Organization Theory and Project Management (with Carol Heimer). His last book, *The Logic of Social Research*, outlines how to use historical, ethnographic, quantitative, and experimental methods to develop and test causal theories in sociology and other social sciences. Before coming to Northwestern, Stinchcombe taught at Johns Hopkins, Berkeley, the University of Chicago and the University of Arizona. He was also a visiting professor in Chile, England, the Netherlands, Norway, Australia, and the Stanford School of Business.



(1) Current and future research projects: His current project is on developing a sociological theory of federalism, starting with the development of different sorts of frontiers into provinces, and so far ending with an essay on the development of bilingualism among whites in South Africa, which started with some provinces speaking, reading, and writing a version of Dutch.

(2) Stinchcombe now works much less with students, and does not teach graduate classes except sometimes on request from a few students. He welcomes the chance to comment on student papers which sometimes scares the students, but sometimes improves their papers. You usually can find him in his carrel in the library. He is old.

Discussant Profiles *continued*



Robert Wuthnow

HOW DOES RELIGION
MATTER?

The social and cultural aspects of grassroots religious beliefs and practices are central to my research. Tensions between religious liberals and conservatives, how religious

values influence decisions about work and money, the changing character of popular spirituality, what it is like to grow up religious, the role of spirituality in artistic creativity, and the challenges posed by increasing religious diversity – these are just a few of the questions I have explored in my books and articles. Questions of civil society, especially its porous nature and the unexamined narratives that tell us things are going well when they often are not, intrigue me. An enduring thread in my research is my concern with the cultural work we do to negotiate seemingly intractable and incompatible commitments, such as being both individualistic and altruistic, public and private, religious and secular, generous and materialistic.

King-to Yeung

HOW DO
ORGANIZATIONS
MEDIATE THE
PRODUCTION OF
MEANINGS, ACTIONS,
AND RELATIONS?

Organizations are platforms on which social actors construct the meanings of actions and negotiate their relationships. While organizations prescribe rules of conduct and formalize cultures within them, social actors often go beyond these restrictions and improvise new frameworks through which exigent problems can be solved and transformed. I am interested in how formalized organizational setups and routines interact with informal relations and organizational crises. I have studied different types of organizations with various degrees of formalization. My current project examines how Chinese state bureaucracy of the 19th century responded to large-scale social rebellions. Upcoming projects include a study of how social organizations among inmates influence strategies of escaping from prison, and a study of the different forms and meanings of “mediators” in social relations.



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