

Economic Sociology

Sociology 587
Fall 2013
Building/room: S Sci 415
Meeting Time: Tues/Thur, 3:30-4:45

Professor Jeff Sallaz
Office: S Sci 439A
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Office Hours: Friday 1:30-3:30

Overview

The purpose of this course is to introduce graduate students to economic sociology, the sociological study of economic life.



Requirements

50% Participation

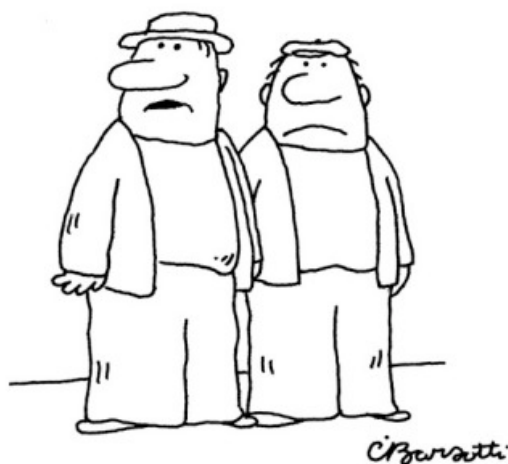
Student will give a short statement and/or pose a question on Tuesday of each week. In addition, students will (in pairs) lead discussion on one Thursday.

50% Term Paper

This could be a theory piece (comparing two traditions, interrogating a paradigm, etc); it could propose an empirical study; or it could write up research undertaken previously or during the semester.

Readings to acquire through barter, purchase, loan, etc.

- Beckett, Jens and Patrick Aspers (ed.). 2011. *The Worth of Goods: Valuation and Pricing in the Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 2005. *The Social Structures of the Economy*. Malden, MA: Polity
- Fligstein, Neil. 2001. *The Architecture of Markets: An Economic Sociology of Twenty-First Century Capitalist Societies*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Fourcade, Marion. 2010. *Economists and Societies: Discipline and Profession in the United States, Britain, and France, 1890s to 1990s*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Granovetter, Mark and Richard Swedberg (eds). 2011 *The Sociology of Economic Life, Third Edition*. Westview Press.
- Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation*. (any version).
- Sallaz, Jeffrey J. 2013. *Labor, Economy and Society*. Malden, MA: Polity.
- Zelizer, Viviana. 2011. *Economic Lives*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.



"There, there it is again—the invisible hand of the marketplace giving us the finger."

Calendar

INTRODUCTION

Week 1

Tues, Aug 27 : Course overview.

Thur, Aug 29 :

- Accounts: ASA Economic Sociology Newsletter. 2013. 12(3). (D2L)
- Swedberg, Richard. 2003. "Contemporary Economic Sociology" Pp. 32-52 in *Principles of Economic Sociology*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (D2L)

FOUNDATIONS

Week 2: Economic Anthropology I: Theoretical Debates

Tues, Sept 3; Thur, Sept 5:

- Adam Smith. 1776. *The Wealth of Nations*, Book 1, Ch 1-2. (D2L)
- Graeber, David. 2011. "On the Invention of Money." [Link here](#)
- Polanyi, Karl. 1957. *The Great Transformation*. Ch. 4, "Societies and Economic Systems."
- Smelser, Neil J. and Richard Sweberg. 1994. "The Sociological Perspective on the Economy." Pp. 1-26 in *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*. (D2L)
- Bourdieu, Pierre. "Introduction." Pp. 1-13 in *The Social Structures of the Economy*. (D2L)

Week 3: Economic Anthropology II: Empirical Evidence

Tues, Sept 10; Thur, Sept 12:

- Geertz, Clifford. "The Bazaar Economy" in TSOEL.
- Polanyi, Karl. "The Economy as Instituted Process" in TSOEL.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Pp. 3-9 (D2L)
- Zelizer, Viviana. "The Social Meaning of Money." Ch. 5 in *Economic Lives*.
- Burawoy, Michael. János Lukacs. 1985. "Mythologies of Work: A Comparison of Firms in State Socialism and Advanced Capitalism." *American Sociological Review* 50(6) 723-37.

Week 4: The Emergence of Market Society

Tues, Sept 17; Thur, Sept 19:

- Collins, Randall "Weber's Last Theory of Capitalism: A Systematization" in TSOEL.
- Polanyi, Karl. 1957. *The Great Transformation*. Ch 3, 5, 6, 12, & 13

Week 5: An Economic Sociology of Economics

Tues, Sept 24; Thur, Sept 26:

- * Fourcade, Marion. 2010. *Economists and Societies*.

THREE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Week 6: Markets as Culture

Tues, Oct 1; Thur, Oct 3:

- Zelizer, Viviana. *Economic Lives*. Introduction, Parts I, II and III (except ch. 5).

Week 7: Markets as Politics

Tues, Oct 8; Thur, Oct 10:

- Fligstein, Neil. *The Architecture of Markets*. Ch 1-4.
- Fligstein, Neil and Adam Goldstein. "The Anatomy of the Mortgage Securitization Crisis." (D2L)

Week 8: Markets as Networks (Embeddedness)

Tues, Oct 15; Thur, Oct 17:

- Granovetter, Mark. "Economic Action and Social Structure" in TSOEL.
- Macaulay, Stewart. "Non-Contractual Relations in Business" TSOEL.
- Uzzi, Brian. "Social Structure and Competition in Interfirm Networks: The Paradox of Embeddedness" in TSOEL.
- Saxenian, AnnaLee. "Inside-Out: Regional Networks and Industrial Adaptation in Silicon Valley and Route 128" in TSOEL.

FOUR THEORETICAL CONCEPTS

Week 9: Governance

Tues, Oct 22; Thur, Oct 24:

- Foucault, Michel. 1997. "Governmentality." In *The Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984: Power*. Paul Rabinow (ed). (D2L).
- Block, Fred. "The Roles of the State in the Economy." From *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*. (D2L).
- Evans, Peter B. 1989. "Predatory, Developmental, and Other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State." *Sociological Forum* 4(4): 561-87. [Link](#)
- Dobbin, Frank. "Why the Economy Reflects the Polity: Early Rail Policy in Britain, France and the United States" in TSOEL.

Week 10: Commensuration.

Tues, Oct 29; Thur, Oct 31:

- Aspers, Patrik and Jens Beckert. "Value in Markets." Ch. 1 in *The Worth of Goods*.
- Espeland, Wendy Nelson and Mitchell L. Stevens. 1998. "Commensuration as a Social Process." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24: 313-43. [Link](#)
- Fourcade, Marion. "Price and Prejudice." Ch. 2 in *The Worth of Goods*.
- Mears, Ashley. "Pricing Looks: Circuits of Value in Fashion Modeling Markets." Ch. 7 in *The Worth of Goods*.

Week 11: Financialization

Tues, Nov 5; Thur, Nov 7:

- Carruthers, Bruce. "What is Sociological about Banks and Banking?" in TSOEL.
- MacKenzie, Donald and Yuval Millo, "Constructing a Market, Performing a Theory: The Historical Sociology of a Financial Derivatives Exchange" in TSOEL.
- Krippener, Greta. 2005. "The Financialization of the American Economy," *Socio-Economic Review* 3 (2).

Week 12: Contested Commodification

Tues, Nov 12; Thur, Nov 14:

- Healy, Kieran. 2006. *Last Best Gifts: Altruism and the Market for Human Blood and Organs*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1 and 2 (D2L)
- Alemeling, Rene. 2007. "Selling Genes, Selling Gender: Egg Agencies, Sperm Banks, and the Medical Market in Genetic Material." *American Sociological Review* 72: 319-340.
- Bernstein, Elizabeth. 2001. "The Meaning of the Purchase: Desire, Demand and the Commerce of Sex." *Ethnography* 2(3): 389-420.
- Sallaz, Jeffrey J. 2006. "The Making of the Global Gambling Industry." *Theory and Society* 35(3): 265-297.

THREE FOLK CONCEPTS**Week 13: Selling**

Tues, Nov 19; Thur, Nov 21:

- Bourdieu, Pierre. "The Specific Logic of the Field of Production," "The Structure of the Field of Builders," and "Advertising Strategies," Pp. 39-64 in *The Social Structures of the Economy*.
- Goffman, Erving. 1979. *Gender Advertisements*. Selections (D2L)
- Hirsch, Paul "Processing Fads and Fashions: An Organization-Set Analysis of Cultural Industry Systems" in TSOEL.

Week 14: Working

Tues, Nov 26; No class Thur Nov 28 (Tofurkey Day)

- Sallaz, Jeffrey J. 2013. *Labor, Economy, and Society*.

Week 15: Consuming

Tues Dec 3; Thur, Dec 5:

- Beckett, Jens. "The Transcending Power of Goods: Imaginative Value in the Economy." Ch. 5 in *The Worth of Goods*.
- Becker, Howard. "Becoming a Marijuana User." *American Journal of Sociology* 59(3): 235-242. ([link](#))
- Bourdieu, Pierre. [1965] 1990. *Photography*. Stanford, CA: Polity. Pp 73-98 . (D2L)
- Benzecry, Claudio. 2011. *The Opera Fanatic*. U of Chicago Press. Selection (D2L)

Week 16

Tues, Dec 10: Course wrap-up

Friday, Dec 13: Final Paper Due by 5pm.