

SOC 596A-001: Sociology of Knowledge

Fall 2010

Wednesdays 2-4:30pm

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Social Sciences 429

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I envision this new course as a blend of sociology of science, organizations, networks, and culture. We're all new to this broad and diverse field that is experiencing resurgence of late; this should be conducive to open, fun, and creative discussion. We will focus on knowledge *production* (sources of innovation, how network ties/position and organizational context affect idea generation), knowledge *diffusion* (through visible and invisible communities, and at micro and macro levels), and knowledge *reception* (how it is evaluated and used). I mostly study knowledge generated in the academy through scientific approaches, and this will be the focus of the course – along with a rare emphasis on the social sciences. After some theoretical grounding, we will familiarize ourselves with empirical investigations in the sociology of knowledge with the aim of generating our own original research in the area.

We will meet for 15 class periods. Each student is responsible for leading discussion for one class period, preparing a presentation (typically a book review) for one class, and writing a 1-page memo for 10 classes. Memos should assume the reader has done the class reading; so instead of summary, focus on 1-3 points (of excitement, confusion, contention, overlap with past readings, research ideas, etc.) that are salient to you. Memos are due at midnight the Monday before the class meeting and should be sent to the class listserv (sok@listserv.arizona.edu). A final paper or proposal is due December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Grades will be determined as follows:

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Leading class discussion | 10% |
| Presentation             | 10% |
| 10 Memos (5% each)       | 50% |
| Final paper/proposal     | 30% |

More books than you should buy are available at the UA bookstore; bring your syllabus and be selective. All readings will also be available on D2L or in the sociology library.

## FOUNDATIONS

### **August 25<sup>th</sup> – Introduction**

Robert K. Merton (1945). "Paradigm for the Sociology of Knowledge." pp. 7-41 in The Sociology of Science N. Storer (ed). University of Chicago Press, 1973.

Charles Camic (2001). "The Sociology of Knowledge." Pp. 8143-8148 in International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences. vol. 12, edited by Paul Baltes and Neil Smelser. New York: Elsevier Press.

Charles Camic and Neil Gross (2001). "The New Sociology of Ideas." Pp. 236-249 in The Blackwell Companion to Sociology, edited by J. Blau. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

E. Doyle McCarthy (1996). Knowledge as Culture: The New Sociology of Knowledge. New York: Routledge. Pp. 1-26, Introduction and Chp 1 "What is Knowledge?"

Ann Swidler and Jorge Arditi (1994). "The New Sociology of Knowledge." *Annual Review of Sociology* 20: 305-329.

### **September 1<sup>st</sup> – Hungarian Foundations: Mannheim & Polanyi**

Karl Mannheim (1985) [1929]. Ideology and Utopia: An Introduction to the Sociology of Knowledge. Section V, "The Sociology of Knowledge," pp 237-280

Karl Mannheim (1993) [1921], "On the Interpretation of Weltanschauung", in Kurt Wolf (ed.) From Karl Mannheim Transaction Press.

Michael Polanyi (2009). The Tacit Dimension. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Class presentation 1: Introduction to Mannheim's life & work
- Class presentation 2: Introduction to Polanyi's life & work

### **September 8<sup>th</sup> – French Foundations: Foucault & Bourdieu**

Foucault, Michel (1970) [1994]. The Order of Things: An Archeology of the Human Sciences. New York: Vintage. Forward, Preface & Chp 10 "The Human Sciences."

Pierre Bourdieu (2004). Science of Science and Reflexivity. University of Chicago Press. pp. 4-71.

- Class presentation 3: Introduction to Foucault's life & work
- Class presentation 4: Introduction to Bourdieu's life & work

## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

### September 15<sup>th</sup> – The Organization of Knowledge Work

Stephan Fuchs (1992). The Professional Quest for Truth: A Social Theory of Science and Knowledge. SUNY Press. Preface, Chp 1 “Toward a Theory of Scientific Organizations,” and Chp 7 “A Theory of Scientific Production.”

Whitley, R. (2000). The Intellectual and Social Organization of the Sciences. England: Oxford University Press. Introduction & Chp 1: “The Modern Sciences as Reputational Work Organizations.”

Diana Rhoten and W.W. Powell (2007). “The Frontiers of Intellectual Property: Expanded Protection vs. New Models of Open Science.” *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* Vol. 3. (2007).

- Class presentation 5: Randall Collins’ Sociology of Philosophies (1998)

### September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Boundaries

Andrew Abbott (2001). Chaos of Disciplines. University of Chicago Press. Chp 5: “The Context of Disciplines.”

Michele Lamont and Virág Molnár (2002). “The Study of Boundaries in the Social Sciences.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 28: 167-195.

Leahey, Erin (2006). “Gender Differences in Productivity: Research Specialization as a Missing Link.” *Gender & Society* 20(6): 754-780.

Thomas F. Gieryn (1983). “Boundary-Work and the Demarcation of Science from Non-Science: Strains and Interests in Professional Ideologies of Scientists.” *American Sociological Review* 48(6):781-795.

Diane Vaughan (2006). “NASA Revisited: Theory, Analogy, and Public Sociology.” *American Journal of Sociology*, 112(2): 353-393.

- Class presentation 6: Karen Knorr Cetina’s Epistemic Cultures (1999)
- Class presentation 7: Tom Gieryn’s Cultural Boundaries of Science (1999)

### September 29<sup>th</sup> – Social Location & Identity

Simmel, Georg. 1971 [1908]. “The Stranger.” Pp. 143-149 in Georg Simmel: On Individuality and Social Forms, ed. Donald Levine. University of Chicago Press.

Gramsci, Antonio (1988) [1929]. “Intellectuals.” Pp. 300-311 in The Antonio Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935, edited by David Forgacs. New York: New York University Press.

Merton, Robert (1972). “Insiders and Outsiders: A Chapter in the Sociology of Knowledge.” *American Journal of Sociology* 77 (July): 9-47.

Gross, Neil (2002). “Becoming a Pragmatist Philosopher: Status, Self-Concept, and Intellectual Choice.” *American Sociological Review* 67(1): 52-76.

- Class presentation 8: Pierre Bourdieu’s Homo Academicus (1984)
- Class presentation 9: Neil Gross’ Richard Rorty (2008)

### **October 6<sup>th</sup> – Culture & Place**

Michele Lamont (1987). "How to Become a Dominant French Philosopher: The Case of Jacques Derrida." *American Journal of Sociology* 93(3): 584-622.

Abend, Gabriel. (2006). "Styles of Sociological Thought: Sociologies, Epistemologies, and the Mexican and U.S. Pursuit of Truth." *Sociological Theory*, 24(1): 1–41.

Marion Fourcade (2010). "Cents and Sensibility: Economic Valuation and the Nature of 'Nature' in France and America." Working paper.

- Class presentation 10: Marion Fourcade's Economists and Societies (2009)

### **October 13<sup>th</sup> – Presentation, Framing, & Rhetoric**

Nigel Gilbert and Michael Joseph Mulkay (1984). Opening Pandora's Box: A Sociological Analysis of Scientists' Discourse. Pp. 1-62. Cambridge University Press.

Grégoire Mallard (2005). "Interpreters of the Literary Canon and Their Technical Instruments: The Case of Balzac Criticism." *American Sociological Review* 70(6): 992-1010.

Peer C. Fiss and Paul M. Hirsch (2005). "The Discourse of Globalization: Framing and Sensemaking of an Emerging Concept." *American Sociological Review* 70(1): 29-52.

- Class presentation 11: Bruno Latour's Science in Action (1987)
- Class presentation 12: D. McCloskey's Knowledge & Persuasion in Economics (1994)

## KNOWLEDGE DYNAMICS

### **October 20<sup>th</sup> – Theoretical Overview**

Thomas S. Kuhn. 1962 [1996]. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, 3rd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago.

Scott Frickel and Neil Gross (2005). "A General Theory of Scientific/Intellectual Movements." *American Sociological Review* 70(2): 204-232

- Class presentation 13: Andrew Abbott's Chaos of Disciplines

### **October 27<sup>th</sup> – Integration, Brokerage, & Recombination**

Thomas F. Gieryn (1978). "Problem Retention and Problem Change in Science." *Sociological Inquiry* 48(3-4): 96-115.

James Moody (2004). "The Structure of a Social Science Collaboration Network: Disciplinary Cohesion from 1963 to 1999." *American Sociological Review* 69(2): 213-238.

Gianluca Carnabuci and Jeroen Bruggeman (2009). "Knowledge Specialization, Knowledge Brokerage and the Uneven Growth of Technology Domains." *Social Forces* 88(2): 607-641.

(continued)

- Diana Rhoten, Erin O'Connor and Edward J. Hackett (2009). "The Act of Collaborative Creation and the Art of Integrative Creativity: Originality, Disciplinarity, and Inter-Disciplinarity." *Thesis Eleven*, Number 96, February 2009: 83–108
- Lee Fleming, Santiago Mingo, and David Chen (2007). "Collaborative Brokerage, Generative Creativity, and Creative Success." *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 52 (2007): 443–475.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> – class cancelled**

**November 10<sup>th</sup> – Networks, Transmission & Diffusion**

- Walter Powell, Kenneth Koput, and Laurel Smith-Doerr (1996). "Interorganizational Collaboration and the Locus of Innovation: Networks of Learning in Biotechnology." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 41(1):116-45.
- Whittington, Kjersten Bunker; Owen-Smith, Jason; Powell, Walter W. (2009). "Networks, Propinquity, and Innovation in Knowledge-Intensive Industries." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 54(1): 90-122.
- Craig M. Rawlings, Daniel A. McFarland, Linus Dahlander, and Dan Wang (2010). "Funnels and Filters: Research Collaborations as Conduits for Knowledge Transfer." Working paper.
- Fiona Murray and Siobhán O'Mahony (2007). "Exploring the Foundations of Cumulative Innovation: Implications for Organization Science." *Organization Science* 18(6): 1006–1021.
- Leahey, Erin (2006). "Transmitting Tricks of the Trade: Advisors and the Development of Research Knowledge." *Teaching Sociology* 34 (April): 93-110.
- Leahey, Erin, and Ryan Reikowsky (2008). "Research Specialization and Collaboration Patterns in Sociology." *Social Studies of Science* 38(3): 425-440.
- Class presentation 14: Everett Rogers' Diffusion of Innovations (1962)
  - Class presentation 15: Diana Crane's: Invisible Colleges (1972)

**November 17<sup>th</sup> – Standardization & Quantification**

- Wendy Espeland and Mitchell Stevens (2008). "A sociology of quantification." *European Journal of Sociology*. XLIX:401–36
- Stefan Timmermans and Steven Epstein (2010). "A World of Standards but not a Standard World: Toward a Sociology of Standards and Standardization." *Annual Review of Sociology* 36: 69-89.
- Leahey, Erin (2005). "Alphas and Asterisks: The Development of Statistical Significance Standards in Sociology." *Social Forces* 81(1): 1-24.
- Class presentation 16: Theodore Porter's Trust in Numbers (1995)
  - Class presentation 17: Sarah Igo's The Averaged American (2007)

**November 24<sup>th</sup> – Happy Thanksgiving! Take a break!**

## KNOWLEDGE RECEPTION

### **December 1<sup>st</sup> – Evaluation & Expertise**

Joshua Guetzkow, Michèle Lamont, Grégoire Mallard (2004). "What is Originality in the Humanities and the Social Sciences?" *American Sociological Review* 69(2): 190-212.

Harry M. Collins and Robert Evans (2002). "The Third Wave of Science Studies: Studies of Expertise and Experience." *Social Studies of Science* 32(2): 235-296 (and debate that follows, if interested).

Mike Reay (2007). "Academic Knowledge and Expert Authority in American Economics." *Sociological Perspectives* 50(1): 101-129.

- Class presentation 18: Grant Blank's Critics, Ratings, & Society (2006)
- Class presentation 19: Michele Lamont's How Professors Think (2009)

### **December 8<sup>th</sup> – Implication of Category-Spanning**

Michèle Lamont, Grégoire Mallard, and Joshua Guetzkow (2006). "Beyond Blind Faith: Overcoming the Obstacles to Interdisciplinary Evaluation." *Research Evaluation* 15(1):43-55.

Greta Hsu, Michael T. Hannan, and Özgecan Koçak (2009). "Multiple Category Memberships in Markets: An Integrative Theory and Two Empirical Tests." *American Sociological Review* 2009 74 (1): 150-169.

Michael T. Hannan (2010). "Partiality of Memberships in Categories and Audiences." *Annual Review of Sociology* 36: 159-181.

Erin Leahey and Jim Moody (2010). "Sociological Innovation through Subfield Integration." Working paper.

- Class presentation 20: Bowker & Star's Sorting Things Out (2000)