

# Contemporary Sociological Theory

Spring 2021

ECTS and Ladok codes are pending.

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Office              Kopparhammaren 7, Rum 451  
Hours              Fridays, 13.00-15.00 (Week 14-23)  
                      Fridays, 16.00-18.00 (Week 15, 18)

Course period    9 April 2021 to 11 June 2021

Language         English

## Course overview

This PhD-level course is an advanced introduction to some of the main ideas and themes in sociological theory from 1945 to the present. It is intended to fulfill the theory of science requirement for the Doctoral Program in Analytical Sociology, but it is also suitable as a theory of social science course for other doctoral programs. The course will examine the theoretical programs pursued within sociology that are most relevant to empirical research, focusing on models of social action (e.g., choices, interactions, habits) and social structure (e.g., classes, networks, cultures, institutions, fields).

By custom, sociological theory is divided into two parts: “classical sociological theory,” which includes nineteenth-century thinkers such as Max Weber (1864–1920) and Émile Durkheim (1858–1917) and ends with Talcott Parsons’ (1902–1979) attempt to unify their ideas in a single theoretical framework, followed by “contemporary sociological theory,” which includes anything that was written afterwards. The period of Parsonian dominance was brief and disputed even in its heyday, but much of what followed in sociological theory can be seen as a reaction to its collapse. The most influential works of the contemporary period share several characteristics. First, they selectively take up parts of Parsonian theory while ignoring the rest of the theoretical framework. Second, they develop theory in direct engagement with empirical research, as did the earlier classical generation of sociological theorists. Third, many of them import ideas from other disciplines including physics (network theory), economics (rational choice theory, institutionalism), and psychology (culture and cognition). Some of these writers are self-consciously modest in their theoretical ambitions (e.g., Robert K. Merton’s [1910–2003] “theories of the middle range”), while others are decidedly not (e.g., Pierre Bourdieu [1930–2002], James Coleman [1926–1995]).

The focus of this course is on the theories that sociologists actually use in their research. This approach imposes certain limits on what we will cover. First, the list of most-frequently cited authors in sociology is, unfortunately, very white, very male, and fairly dead. Second, we will not read much of social theory as it is broadly conceived: “grand theories” that are written as abstract discourses on great thinkers are no longer well represented within the sociological mainstream, even though they remain influential outside of the discipline. The same applies to more radical perspectives emerging from Marxism, poststructuralism, and critical race and gender theory. Finally, we will for the most part ignore issues of method or epistemology (interpretation, explanation, causation, etc.) in favor of scrutinizing theoretical claims primarily on their own terms. Our discussions will focus on the logic of theory, rather than the logic of explanation.

## Course structure

This course is given on a half-time basis and stretches over a period of ten weeks. The language of instruction is English. It consists of reading assignments, lectures, and seminars.

**Readings:** Careful reading and independent study of the assigned texts are essential for successful completion of the course. The assigned reading load is heavy: there will be between 150 and 200 pages of required reading per week, plus another 200 pages of suggested readings that fill out each theoretical perspective and the debates that surround it. The readings are central texts in contemporary sociological theory and research. Many are “citation classics;” nearly all the rest are either written by the authors of citation classics or are commentaries on well-known texts (See Appendix for more information). In a few cases I have chosen to suggest readings on authors who have notoriously difficult writing styles (e.g., Talcott Parsons and Harrison White [1930–]). Sorry, you’re not going to get out of reading Bourdieu, so don’t ask.

**Lectures:** The course will include three lecture periods. The lectures are not intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the course materials, but rather to provide useful context and an orientation to three of the main themes of the course: the idea of sociological theory, concepts of social action, and concepts of social structure. On days when a lecture occurs, the lecture will take place at the usual seminar time. If a seminar is scheduled on the same day, it will begin an hour after the end of the lecture.

**Seminars:** Classroom (online) instruction will primarily take the form of seminar discussions. Participants are expected to have completed the required readings and well as the short writing assignment (see below) before the start of each seminar. Attendance and active participation are essential for successful completion of the course. It is also strongly recommended that participants complete as much of the suggested readings as possible.

### **Intended learning outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able at an advanced level to:

- identify the principal lines of development in sociological theory since 1945.
- demonstrate knowledge of the principal contributions of different lines of sociological theory, including the important similarities and differences.
- analyze and synthesize the content of central texts in a clear, coherent, and well-argued manner.
- apply relevant theoretical perspectives to the study of social phenomena, and critically evaluate the application of theoretical perspectives in proposed and completed research.

### **Examination and grading**

Grades range from A to F/Fx and are based on how well the student has achieved the intended learning outcomes. The learning outcomes are assessed as follows:

#### **Seminar participation**

In addition to regular attendance and active participation, students are required to complete four short memos and to present them to the class. The memo is due at 18.00 the day before seminar and should be sent to the entire class list. The assignment for each memo is to take one of the required readings and engage with the main argument(s) of the text. These memos should not exceed 750 words and should have four parts:

- First, the memo should provide a short introduction to the author. Who is the author(s)? What is their intellectual background? What are their main research interests? Where is this text situated in the larger body of their work?
- Second, the memo should synthesize the main arguments of the text. Which problem is being addressed? What are the author(s)’s major theses? Which terms and concepts are central to the argument? How does the argument get supported?

- Third, the memo should present the reading's contribution. How does the author(s)'s argument expand, challenge, or refine previous readings or previous theories? To what extent does this argument contribute to the theoretical and empirical understanding of the issue under consideration?
- Finally, the memo should provide a critical evaluation of the reading. What are the strengths and the weaknesses of the argument? What is left ambiguous, underdeveloped or unaddressed in the present reading? Which type of investigation could overcome these limitations?

Students will present their memos in seminar as introduction to the required readings. During that seminar, the student will furthermore be expected to act as an **advocate** for the author(s) of the reading and, where appropriate, as a **critic** of the other texts. Participants may work on their memos and presentations individually or collectively, so long as the distribution of work remains equitable and the required readings are fully covered.

### Final assignment

In order to obtain credit for the course, students are required to write a short essay (3,000-4,000 words). The topic of the essay is open and should ideally be decided in consultation with the student's main supervisor, but it must draw on the readings assigned for at least two different weeks of the course. The essay should take up a single concept (e.g., rational action, social structure, institutions, culture, etc.) or premise (e.g., the relationship between culture and social structure), trace out its changes in the hands of different authors, and offer a critical evaluation of its uses.

### Course literature

#### Required books:

- Berger, Peter, and Thomas Luckmann. 1967. *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge*. New York: Anchor Books.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Bourdieu, Pierre, and Loïc Wacquant. 1992. *Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Coleman, James. 1990. *Foundations of Social Theory*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Elias, Norbert. 2000 [1939]. *The Civilizing Process*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Anchor Books.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books.
- Hochschild, Arlie. 1989. *The Second Shift: Working Parents and the Revolution at Home*. New York: Viking.
- Wilson, William J. 1987. *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

#### Recommended books:

- Anderson, Elijah. 1999. *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Azarian, Reza. 2005. *The General Sociology of Harrison White: Chaos and Order in Social Networks*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Blumer, Herbert. 1986 [1969]. *Symbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- DiMaggio, Paul, and Walter Powell (eds). 1991. *The New Institutionalism in Organizational Analysis*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Elster, Jon. 1983. *Sour Grapes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Fligstein, Neil, and Doug McAdam. 2012. *A Theory of Fields*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Joas, Hans, and Wolfgang Knöbl. 2009 [2004]. *Social Theory: Twenty Introductory Lectures*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Scientific articles and other resources:** see below for each lecture and seminar.

## Course schedule and reading assignments

All required readings should be completed prior to the lecture or seminar. Some minor additional readings may be added as needed.

### Introduction

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9 April 2021: Lecture 13.00-15.00 (What is sociological theory?).

#### Required reading:

- Abend, Gabriel. 2008. "The Meaning of 'Theory.'" *Sociological Theory* 26(2), 173–199. (27pp.)
- Martin, John Levi. 2015. "On Theory in Sociology." Ch. 1 in *Thinking Through Theory*. New York: WW Norton & Company. (44pp.)
- Ermakoff, Ivan. 2017. "Shadow Plays: Theory's Perennial Challenges." *Sociological Theory* 35(2): 128-137. (10pp.)

#### Suggestions for further reading:

- Connell, R. W. 1997. "Why is Classical Theory Classical?" *American Journal of Sociology* 102(6): 1511-1557. (47pp.)
- Joas, Hans, and Wolfgang Knöbl. 2009 [2004]. "The classical attempt at synthesis: Talcott Parsons." Ch. II in *Social Theory: Twenty Introductory Lectures*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (23pp.)

### Social action I: choices

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16 April 2021: Lecture 13.00-15.00 (theories of the social self).  
Seminar 16.00-17.00 (rational choice theory).

#### Required reading I: varieties of rational choice theory.

- Boudon, Raymond. 1996. "The 'Cognitivist Model': A Generalized 'Rational-Choice Model.'" *Rationality and Society* 8(2): 123-150. (27pp.)
- Simon, Herbert. 1955. "A Behavioral Model of Rational Choice." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 69(1): 99-118. (19pp.)
- Tversky, Amos, and Daniel Kahneman. 1986. "Rational Choice and the Framing of Decisions." *The Journal of Business* 59(4 Part 2): S251-S278. (28pp.)

#### Required reading II: Coleman's foundations of collective behavior.

- Coleman, James. 1990. "Collective Behavior," "The Demand for Effective Norms," and "The Realization of Effective Norms." Ch. 9-11 (pp. 197-299) in *Foundations of Social Theory*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press (102pp.)

#### Suggestions for further reading:

- Elster, Jon. 1983. "Sour Grapes." Ch. III (pp. 109-149) in *Sour Grapes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (41pp.)
- Freese, Jeremy. 2009. "Preferences." Ch. 5 in *The Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology*, edited by Peter Hedström and Peter Bearman. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Adams, Julia. 2010. "The Unknown James Coleman: Culture and History in Foundations of Social Theory." *Contemporary Sociology* 39(3): 253–258. (6pp.)

- Ermakoff, Ivan. 2017. "On the Frontiers of Rational Choice." Ch. 6 in *Social Theory Now*, edited by Claudio Benzecry, Monika Krause, and Isaac Ariail Reed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (39pp.)

### **Social action II: interactions**

23 April 2021: Seminar 13.00-15.00 (symbolic interactionism).

#### **Required reading I: Goffman's dramaturgical sociology.**

- Goffman, Erving. 1959. "Introduction," "II. Performances," "III. Regions and Region Behavior," and "VII. Conclusion" in *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Anchor Books. (131pp.)

#### **Required reading II: interactionist micro-macro theories.**

- Abbott, Andrew. 1995. "Things Of Boundaries." *Social Research* 62(4): 857-882. (26pp.)
- Collins, Randall. 2000. "Situational Stratification: A Micro-macro Theory of Inequality." *Sociological Theory* 18: 17-43. (27pp.)
- Knorr Cetina, Karin. 2009. "The Synthetic Situation: Interactionism for a Global World." *Symbolic Interaction* 32:61-87. (27pp.)

#### **Suggestions for further reading:**

- Blumer, Herbert. 1939. "Collective Behavior." Pp. 220-232 in *An Outline of the Principles of Sociology*, edited by Robert E. Park. New York: Barnes. (13pp.)
- Blumer, Herbert. 1986 [1969]. Ch. I (pp. 1-20, 47-60) and III (pp. 78-89) in *Symbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. (46pp.)
- Anderson, Elijah. 1999. "The Code of the Street," "Decent and Street Families," and "Campaigning for Respect." Introduction, Ch. 1, and Ch. 2 (pp. 32-34, 35-53, 66-106) in *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (63pp.)
- Stryker, Sheldon, and Peter J. Burke. 2000. "The Past, Present, and Future of an Identity Theory." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 63(4): 284-297. (14pp.)

### **Social action III: habits**

Friday, 30 April 2021 Seminar 13.00-15.00 (habit theories).

#### **Required readings I: early habit theories in sociology.**

- Elias, Norbert. 2000 [1939]. "The Social Constraint towards Self-Constraint," "The Muting of Drives: Psychologization and Rationalization," and "Shame and Repugnance." Part Four, Ch. I, V, and VI (pp. 365-379, 397-421) in *The Civilizing Process*. Oxford: Blackwell. (40pp.)
- Garfinkel, Harold. 1964. "Studies of the Routine Grounds of Everyday Activities." *Social Problems* 11(3): 225-250. (26pp.)

#### **Required readings II: Bourdieu's concept of the habitus.**

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984 [1979]. "The Habitus and the Space of Life-Styles." Ch. 3 (pp. 169-225) in *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (57pp.)
- Bourdieu, Pierre, and Loïc Wacquant. 1992. "Interest, Habitus, and Rationality." Ch. II.4 (pp. 115-140) in *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (26pp.)

#### **Suggestions for further reading:**

- Camic, Charles. 1986. "The Matter of Habit." *American Journal of Sociology* 91(5): 1039-1087 (49pp., but skim sections on Durkheim and Weber.)
- Emirbayer, Mustafa, and Douglas Maynard. 2011. "Pragmatism and Ethnomethodology." *Qualitative Sociology* 34: 221-261. (41pp.)
- Ermakoff, Ivan. 2013. "Rational Choice May Take Over." Ch. 4 in *Bourdieu and Historical Analysis*, edited by Philip Gorski. Durham: Duke University Press. (21pp.)

- Vaisey, Stephen, and Margaret Frye, 2019. "The Old One-Two: Preserving Analytical Dualism in Cognitive Sociology." Ch. 6 in *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*, edited by Wayne H. Brekhus and Gabe Ignatow. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (15pp.)

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### **Social structure I: class and its intersections**

7 May 2021: Lecture 13.00-15.00 (theories of social structure).  
Seminar 16.00-18.00 (stratification systems).

#### **Required reading I: underclass theories.**

- Wilson, William J. 1987. "Cycles of Deprivation and the Ghetto Underclass Debate" and "Social Change and Social Dislocations in the Inner City." Ch. 1 and 2 (pp. 3-62) in *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (60pp.)
- Massey, Douglas S. 1990. "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass." *American Journal of Sociology* 96(2): 329–357. (29pp.)

#### **Required reading II: the gendered division of labor.**

- Hochschild, Arlie Russell. 1979. "Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure." *American Journal of Sociology* 85(3): 551-575. (25pp.)
- Hochschild, Arlie. 1989. "Marriage in a Stalled Revolution," "The Cultural Cover-up," and "Beneath the Cover-up." Ch. 2, 3, and 14 (pp. 11-21, 22-33, 188-200) in *The Second Shift: Working Parents and the Revolution at Home*. New York: Viking. (35pp.)

#### **Suggestions for further reading:**

- Weeden, Kim, and David Grusky. 2005. "The Case for a New Class Map." *American Journal of Sociology* 111(1): 141–212. (71pp.)
- Sampson, Robert J., Stephen W. Raudenbush, and Felton Earls. 1997. "Neighborhoods and Violent Crime: A Multilevel Study of Collective Efficacy." *Science* 277(5328): 918-924. (7pp.)
- Piketty, Thomas, and Gabriel Zucman. 2014. "Capital is Back: Wealth-Income Ratios in Rich Countries 1700–2010." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129(3): 1255–1310. (56pp.)
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 1986. "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought." *Social Problems* 33(6): s14–s32. (19pp.)

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### **Social structure II: networks**

14 May 2021: Seminar 13.00-15.00 (social network theory).

#### **Required readings I: embeddedness.**

- Granovetter, Mark S. 1973. "The Strength of Weak Ties." *American Journal of Sociology* 78(6): 1360–1380 (21pp.).
- Granovetter, Mark. 1985. "Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness." *American Journal of Sociology* 91(3): 481–510 (30pp.).
- McPherson, J. Miller, Lynn Smith-Lovin, and James M. Cook. 2001. "Birds of a Feather: Homophily in Social Networks." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27:415–444 (30pp.).

#### **Required readings II: social capital.**

- Coleman, James. 1988. "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital." *American Journal of Sociology* 94: S95-S120 (26pp.).
- Burt, Ronald S. 2004. "Structural Holes and Good Ideas." *American Journal of Sociology* 110(2): 349-399. (51pp.)

#### **Suggestions for further reading:**

- Azarian, G. Reza. 2005. "Return to Empirical Social Reality," "Ties and Networks," and "Structures and Disciplines." Ch. 2, 3, and 5 (pp. 27-67, 91-111) in *Chaos and Order in Social Networks: The General Sociology of Harrison White*. Dissertation Thesis, Stockholm University. (82pp.)

- Emirbayer, Mustafa, and Jeff Goodwin. 1994. "Network Analysis, Culture, and the Problem of Agency." *American Journal of Sociology* 99(6): 1411-1454. (44pp.)
- Fuhse, Jan. 2009. The Meaning Structure of Social Networks. *Sociological Theory* 27(1): 51-73. (23pp.)
- Putnam, Robert D. 1995. Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital. *Journal of Democracy* 6(1): 65-78. (14pp.)
- Castells, Manuel. 2000. "Toward a Sociology of the Network Society." *Contemporary Sociology* 29(5): 693-699. (7pp.)

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### **Social structure III: culture**

21 May 2021: Seminar 13.00-15.00 (cultural sociology).

#### **Required readings I: Geertz's interpretative anthropology.**

- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Thick Description," "Religion as a Cultural System" (first 14 pages only) and "Ideology as a Cultural System." Ch. 1, 4, and 8 (pp. 3-32, 87-101, 193-232) in *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books. (85pp.)

#### **Required reading II: debates in the sociology of culture.**

- Swidler, Ann. 1986. "Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies." *American Sociological Review* 51:273-286. (14pp.)
- Vaisey, Stephen. 2009. "Motivation and Justification: A Dual-Process Model of Culture in Action." *American Journal of Sociology* 114(6): 1675-1715. (41pp.)
- Martin, John Levi. 2010. "Life's a beach but you're an ant, and other unwelcome news for the sociology of culture." *Poetics* 38(2): 229-244. (14pp.)

#### **Suggestions for further reading:**

- Mills, C. Wright. 1940. "Situating Actions and Vocabularies of Motive." *American Sociological Review* 5: 904-913. (10pp.)
- Sewell, William H., Jr. 1992. "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation." *American Journal of Sociology* 98(1): 1-29. (29pp.)
- DiMaggio, Paul J. 1997. "Culture and Cognition." *Annual Review of Sociology* 23:263-287. (25pp.)
- Lizardo, Omar, and Michael Strand. 2010. "Skills, toolkits, contexts and institutions: Clarifying the relationship between different approaches to cognition in cultural sociology." *Poetics* 38:204-227. (24pp.)

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### **Social structure IV: institutions**

28 May 2021: Seminar 13.00-15.00 (neoinstitutionalism).

#### **Required readings I: institutionalization and legitimation.**

- Berger, Peter, and Thomas Luckmann. 1967. "Society as an Objective Reality." Ch. II (pp. 47-128) in *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge*. New York: Anchor Books. (81pp.)

#### **Required readings II: neoinstitutionalism in organizational analysis.**

- DiMaggio, Paul J., and Walter W. Powell. 1991. "Introduction" (pp. 1-38) in *The New Institutionalism in Organizational Analysis*, edited by Paul DiMaggio and Walter Powell. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (38pp.)
- DiMaggio, Paul J., and Walter W. Powell. 1983. "The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields." *American Sociological Review* 48: 147-60. (14pp., reprinted in *The New Institutionalism*.)
- Meyer, John W., and Brian Rowan. 1977. "Institutionalized Organizations: Formal Structure as Myth and Ceremony." *American Journal of Sociology* 83(2): 340-363. (24pp., reprinted in *The New Institutionalism*.)

**Suggestions for further reading:**

- Williamson, Oliver E. 1981. "The Economics of Organization: The Transaction Cost Approach." *American Journal of Sociology* 87(3): 548-577. (30pp.)
- North, Douglass C. 1990. "Institutions." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 5(1): 97-112. (16pp.)
- Fligstein, Neil. 1997. "Markets as Politics: A Political-Cultural Approach to Market Institutions." *American Sociological Review* 61(4): 656-673. (18pp.)
- Meyer, John W., et al. 1997. "World Society and the Nation State." *American Journal of Sociology* 103: 144-181. (36pp.)

**Social structure V: fields**

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4 June 2021: Seminar 13.00-15.00 (field theory).

**Required reading I: Bourdieu's field theory.**

- Pierre Bourdieu. 1984 [1979]. "Preface to the English-Language Edition," "Introduction," and Chapter 2, "The Social Space and its Transformations" (pp. xi-xiv, 1-8, 99-168) in *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (84pp.)
- Bourdieu, Pierre, and Loïc Wacquant. 1992. "The Logic of Fields." Ch. II.3 (pp. 94-115) in *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (22pp.).

**Required reading II: US responses.**

- Fligstein, Neil. 2001. "Social Skill and the Theory of Fields." *Sociological Theory* 19(2): 105-125. (21pp.)
- John Levi Martin. 2003. "What is Field Theory?" *American Journal of Sociology* 109: 1-49. (49pp.)

**Suggestions for further reading:**

- Abbott, Andrew. 2005. "Linked Ecologies: States and Universities as Environments for Professions." *Sociological Theory* 23(3): 245-274. Make sure to read the section on Bourdieu that was cut from the published version. (30pp. + 7pp.)
- Joas, Hans, and Wolfgang Knöbl. 2009 [2004]. "Between Structuralism and Theory of Practice: The Cultural Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu." Ch. XV (pp. 371-400) in *Social Theory: Twenty Introductory Lectures*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (30pp.)
- Fligstein, Neil, and Doug McAdam. 2012. "The Gist of It" and "Change and Stability in Strategic Action Fields." Ch. 1 and Ch. 4 (pp. 3-33, 83-113) in *A Theory of Fields*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Sallaz, Jeffrey J., and Jane Zavisca. 2007. "Bourdieu in American Sociology, 1980-2004." *Annual Review of Sociology* 33(1): 21-41. (21pp.)

**Coda: analytical sociology and sociological theory**

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11 June 2021: Seminar 13.00-15.00 (debates around analytical sociology).

**Required readings: the critics.**

- Little, Daniel. 2012. "Analytical Sociology and the Rest of Sociology." *Sociologica* 2012(1). (46pp., but you may stop at page 22.)
- Abbott, Andrew. 2007. "Mechanisms and Relations." *Sociologica* 2007(2): 1-22. (22pp.)
- Lizardo, Omar. 2012. "Analytical Sociology's Superfluous Revolution." *Sociologica* 2012(1). (11pp.)
- Santoro, Marco. 2012. "The Whole and the Parts. Or: Is Analytical Sociology Analytical Enough about Sociology, and Itself?" *Sociologica* 2012(1). (31pp.)

**Suggestions for further readings: the advocates.**

- Hedström, Peter, and Petri Ylikoski. 2010. "Causal Mechanisms in the Social Sciences." *Annual Review of Sociology* 2010 36: 49-67. (19pp.)



- Hedström, Peter, and Peter Bearman. 2011. "What is Analytical Sociology All About? An Introductory Essay." Ch. 1 in *The Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology*, edited by Peter Hedström and Peter Bearman. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bearman, Peter. 2012. "On Analytical Sociology." *Sociologica* 2012(1). (2pp.)
- Manzo, Gianluca. 2012. "Full and Sketched Micro-foundations. The Odd Resurgence of a Dubious Distinction." *Sociologica* 2012(1). (7pp.)

### Acknowledgements

This course plan is indebted to earlier contemporary sociological theory courses designed by Ivan Ermakoff, Neil Fligstein, and Kieran Healy.

### Appendix: the sociological hit parade

#### Most cited authors of books in 2007, sociologist and anthropologists only

Times Higher Education Supplement

Data provided by Thompson Reuter's ISI Web of Science

Author and field	Citations to books in 2007
Michel Foucault (1926-1984) Philosophy, sociology, criticism	2,521 cites
Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002) Sociology	2,465 cites
Anthony Giddens (1938- ) Sociology	1,303 cites
Erving Goffman (1922-1982) Sociology	1,066 cites
Jurgen Habermas (1929- ) Philosophy, sociology	1,049 cites
Max Weber (1864-1920) Sociology	971 cites
Bruno Latour (1947- ) Anthropology, sociology	944 cites
Ulrich Beck (1944-2015) Sociology	733 cites
Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) Sociology	662 cites
Clifford Geertz (1926-2006) Anthropology	596 cites
Karl Marx (1818-1883) Political theory, economics, sociology	577 cites
Barney Glaser (1930-) Sociology	501 cites

#### Most cited works in selected sociology journals in 2012

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Data provided by Thompson Reuter's ISI Web of Science

Rank	Author	Year	Title	Cites
1	Bourdieu, P.	1984	<i>Distinction</i>	51
2	Raudenbush, S.; Bryk, A.	2002	<i>Hierarchical Linear Models</i>	49
3	Putnam, R.	2000	<i>Bowling Alone</i>	48
4	Coleman, J.	1988	"Social Capital... Human Capital"	44
5	Goffman, E.	1959	<i>The Presentation of Self...</i>	40
5	Strauss, A.; Glaser, B.	1967	<i>The Discovery of Grounded Theory</i>	40
7	Goffman, E.	1963	<i>Stigma</i>	37
8	Gottfredson, M.; Hirschi, T.	1990	<i>A General Theory of Crime</i>	36
8	Mcpherson, M.; et al.	2001	"Birds of a Feather"	36

10	Granovetter, M.	1973	"The Strength of Weak Ties"	35
11	Wilson, W.	1987	<i>The Truly Disadvantaged</i>	34
11	Coleman, J.	1990	<i>Foundations of Social Theory</i>	34
13	Lareau, A.	2003	<i>Unequal Childhoods</i>	32
13	Steensland, B. et al.	2000	"The Measure of American Religion"	32
15	Massey, D.	1993	<i>American Apartheid</i>	31
15	Anderson, E.	1999	<i>Code of the Streets</i>	31
17	Charmaz, K.	2006	<i>Constructing Grounded Theory</i>	30
18	Dimaggio, P.; Powell, W.	1983	"The Iron Cage Revisted"	29
18	Portes, A.	1998	"Social Capital"	29
20	Swidler, A.	1986	"Culture in Action"	28
21	West, C.; Zimmerman, D.	1987	"Doing Gender"	27
22	Blalock, H.	1967	<i>Toward a Theory of Minority-Group...</i>	25
22	Hochschild, A.	1983	<i>The Managed Heart</i>	25
24	Sampson, R.	1997	"Neighborhoods and Violent Crime"	24
24	Meyer, J.; Rowan, B.	1977	"Institutionalized Organizations"	24
24	Bourdieu, P.	1977	<i>Outline of a Theory of Practice</i>	24
24	Weber, M.	1978	<i>Economy and Society</i>	24
24	Hirschi, T.	1969	<i>The Causes of Delinquency</i>	24
24	Giddens, A.	1991	<i>Modernity and Self-Identity</i>	24
30	Goffman, E.	1974	<i>Frame Analysis</i>	23

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