

SOCIOLOGY 476
SEMINAR IN MICROSOCIOLOGY

Tuesday 10:00-12:20
1812 Chicago Avenue Seminar Room

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Office hours: by appointment

This seminar is designed to expose you to the realm of sociological research that focuses on the dynamics of interaction.

We will be reading a considerable number of texts this quarter. Because of the amount of reading, I will assign a primary reader for each text each week, and I will ask that you submit to me (and to each other) by email by noon on Tuesday a list of at least five questions from the readings that you think are important for our discussions. I expect you to know the fundamental arguments of each of the readings, and if you were called upon you could provide a reasonable exegesis of each reading. This does not mean that you need to have read every line of every reading. Informed skimming is a fundamental skill of graduate education. I should have no fear in giving you hundreds of pages of reading each week, assuming that you will be able to fit it into your schedule.

Last time I taught the course, I had students read chapters from a graduate level social psychology text (Sociological Perspectives on Social Psychology by Cook, Fine, and House). Since that time a new text has come out (Handbook of Social Psychology by John Delamater). The Delamater volume (very expensive) is available at the bookstore. Although students found these useful for background, they felt they were less valuable for class discussion. The suggestion was made that these readings should be discretionary. I will place these readings in the computer laboratory where you can get access as you wish, but we won't use them as discussion material in class.

There are four ways that this graduate seminar can be run in terms of the requirements of the course. Each technique has its strengths and weaknesses, and I am open to each.

First, each of you can prepare a research paper on a topic of your choice related to microsociology. The advantage of this approach is that you will be able to choose the topic of greatest

appeal to you. The disadvantages are that such an approach is likely to lead to a set of incompletes and, since I will ask for reports on your progress most weeks (in the last half of class), to a disjointed discussion.

Second, you can all work on related or coordinated projects. This has the advantage that our discussions will be focused and the outcome can be more or less coordinated - a topic such as status or reputation. It is also possible that the outcome will be publishable if our coordination is adequate. The disadvantage is that not everyone will be working on a topic of primary interest. Incompletes may also be a problem here, although probably less than in the first option, since there will be a push to be at the same stage of the project.

Third, we can avoid a paper entirely, and instead you will be asked to hand in short papers (two to three pages) on some aspect of the assigned readings on six weeks. The advantage here is that there will be no incompletes. The disadvantage is that we will be sticking close to the readings without creating new knowledge. Doing research provides you with an opportunity to understand the methodologies of microsociological research.

Fourth, as a compromise, we can have shorter research papers (ten pages), coupled with a smaller number (three) of short papers. Like most compromises, this may provide the best or the worst of each world.

The choice needs to be a collective one, and will be addressed the first week of class.

Books Available at Norris:

John Delamater, Handbook of Social Psychology (optional)
Sigmund Freud, Group Psychology
Erving Goffman, Presentation of Self in Everyday Life
Michael Hechter, Principles of Group Solidarity
Eviatar Zerubavel, Social Mindscales

September 23 INTRODUCTION

September 30 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGICAL MINIATURISM

John Stolte, Gary Alan Fine and Karen Cook. ASociological Miniaturism: Seeing the Big Through the Small in Social Psychology.@ Annual Review of Sociology 27, 2001, 387-413.

Kenneth Gergen, ASocial Psychology as History.@ Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 26, 1973, 309-320.

James House, AThe Three Faces of Social Psychology,@

Sociometry 40, 1977, 161-77.

Randall Collins, AOn the Microfoundations of
Macrosociology,@ American Journal of Sociology 86,
1981, 984-1014.

Gary Alan Fine, "On the Microfoundations of Macrosociology:
Constraint and the Exterior Reality of Structure." The
Sociological Quarterly. 32, 1991, 161-177.

October 7 IDENTITY/SELF

George Herbert Mead, Mind, Self, and Society, 1934, ASelf.@
Erving Goffman, Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, 1959,
Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 6, 7

Ralph Turner, AThe Real Self: From Institution to Impulse.@
American Journal of Sociology 81, 1976, 980-1016.

Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper, ABeyond >Identity=.@
Theory and Society 29, 2000, 1-47.

Michael Hogg, Deborah Terry, and Katherine White, AA Tale of
Two Theories: A Critical Comparison of Identity Theory
with Social Identity Theory.@ Social Psychology
Quarterly 58, 1995, 255-69.

BACKGROUND: Chapter 3 in Cook (by Gecas); Chapter 9 in
Delamater

October 14 CULTURE

Nina Eliasoph and Paul Lichterman, ACulture in Interaction,@
American Journal of Sociology 108, 2003, 735-94.

Gary Alan Fine, ASmall Groups and Culture Creation,@
American Sociological Review 1979, 44, 733-45.

Michael Farrell, AArtist Circles and the Development of
Artists,@ Journal of Small Group Research 13, 1982,
451-74.

Donald Roy, A>Banana Time=: Job Satisfaction and Informal
Interaction.@ Human Organization 18, 1960, 158-168.

Eviatar Zerubavel, Social Mindscales, 1997 (all).

October 21 INTERACTION

Carol Brooks Gardner, AAccess Information: Public Lies and
Private Peril.@ Social Problems 35, 1988, 384-97.

Harold Garfinkel, AStudies of the Routine Grounds of
Everyday Activities.@ Social Problems 11, 1964, 225-50.

Erving Goffman, Frame Analysis, Chapters 1-3

Emmanuel Schegloff and Harvey Sacks, AOpening Up Closings.@
Semiotica 8, 1973, 289-327.

Mark Granovetter, AThe Strength of Weak Ties.@ American
Journal of Sociology 78, 1973, 1360-80.

BACKGROUND: Chapter Seven in Cook, Chapter Sixteen in Delamater

October 28 GROUPS

- Freud, 1921, all
- Ivan Steiner, AWhatever Happened to the Group in Social Psychology.@ Journal of Experimental Social Psychology 10, 1974, 94-108.
- Gary Alan Fine and Brooke Harrington, ATiny Publics: Small Groups and Civil Society.@ Sociological Theory 22, 2004, 341-56.
- Kurt Lewin, Ronald Lippitt, and Ralph K. White, APatterns of Agressive Behavior in Experimentally Created >Social Climates,@ Journal of Social Psychology 10, 1939, 271-299.
- George Simmel, AThe Number of Members as Determining the Sociological Form of the Group.@ American Journal of Sociology 8, 1902-1903, 1-46, 158-96.

BACKGROUND: Chapter Fifteen in Delamater

November 4 EMOTIONS

- Lynn Smith-Lovin, 2006 Cooley-Mead Award Address (to be distributed)
- Candace Clark, ASympathy Biography and Sympathy Margin.@ American Journal of Sociology 93, 1987, 290-321.
- Arlie Hochschild, AEmotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure,@ American Journal of Sociology 85, 1979, 551-75.
- Thomas Sheff, AShame and Conformity: The Deference-Emotion System.@ American Sociological Review 53, 1988, 395-406.
- Theodore Kemper, AHow Many Emotions Are There?@ American Journal of Sociology 93, 1987, 263-89.

BACKGROUND: Chapter Five in Cook; Chapter Thirteen in Delamater

November 11 STATUS/POWER

- Cecelia Ridgeway, AThe Social Construction of status Value: Gender and Other Nominal Characteristics.@ Social Forces 70, 1991, 367-86.
- Erving Goffman, AThe Interaction Order.@ American Sociological Review 48, 1983, 1-17.
- Tim Hallett, ASymbolic Power and Organizational Culture,@ Sociological Theory 21, 2003, 128-49.
- Muzafer Sherif, B. Jack White, and O.J. Harvey, AStatus in

Experimentally Produced Groups. @ American Journal of Sociology 60, 1955, 370-379.

Whyte, William Foote. Chapter 1 in Street Corner Society. University of Chicago Press, 1943.

BACKGROUND: Chapter Eleven in Cook; Chapter Two in Delamater

November 18 EXCHANGE/NORMS

Michael Hechter, Principles of Group Solidarity, to be announced.

Edward Lawler, Shane Thye, and Jeongkoo Yoon, "Social Exchange and Micro Social Order," American Sociological Review 73, 2008, 519-42.

Richard Emerson, "Power-Dependence Relations." American Sociological Review 27, 1962, 31-41.

George Homans, "Bringing Men Back In," American Sociological Review 29, 1964, 809-18.

Christine Horne, "Sociological Perspectives on the Emergence of Social Norms." Pp. 3-34 in Michael Hechter and Karl-Dieter Opp. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2001.

November 25 Discussion of papers