

Field, worth and network  
Readings of Pierre Bourdieu, French pragmatic sociology and Actor Network Theory

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Graduate Seminar  
March 31-April 8 2012  
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We use that seminar to compare the sociologies of three schools of thought that have structured French and continental social sciences from the 1980s' on. Key concepts are presented and discussed in light of their origins and their subsequent uses. What unites these three approaches is their attempt to generate new concepts in the aftermath of the structuralist wave.

Lectures are organized so that major concepts are presented and clarified by illuminating their intellectual sources. Each of the three schools borrow heavily from philosophers and one key to understand the stakes of their conceptual innovations is to decipher the extent of their borrowing and the scope of the creative spin given to these influences. In addition to the forerunners of Bourdieu / Boltanski&Thevenot / Callon&Latour, we will also read a few papers illustrating how their conceptual innovations have been carried by original methods, which we can call *technologies of demonstration*. Readings will be pre-circulated and the expectation is that people come with the readings covered. Lectures will only be useful to the extent that you engage it and work around the texts from your own questions and field-based problems.

Discussions are meant to tie the presentation of the texts with the very practical questions you will have when you are faced with your actors and their discourses, whether from interviews or from archival materials. You will have to bring to the discussion sessions "things" from your project, in relation to the theme discussed during the lectures. There should be some fluidity between the lectures and the recitations. If you have a pressing question during a lecture, do not hesitate to voice it. A few and very short writing assignments (one due before I come so I know what you work on, then one per theme so you test Bourdieu, Boltanski&Thevenot and Callon&Latour on your data) will help us understand what each of the concepts surveyed in lectures can bring you. To help you do that and flesh out the concepts surveyed, we will look at the *technologies of demonstration* that each of these groups of social scientists have developed.

**Saturday March 31: 3-4.15pm**

Presentation of the course and introduction of participants  
Come with a description of your project (not more than 5 pages, not less than 1 page) and the questions/problems you have. You should send me that document beforehand (March 30 at night (your time) so I have time to read it).

The rules of the field: Bourdieu and the Durkheim/Wittgenstein legacy

**Saturday March 31: 4:30-6pm**

*Session A: Fields, forms of capitals and power relations*  
Bourdieu, Pierre. 1992. *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. P.94-114.  
Bourdieu, Pierre. 1998. The specificity of the scientific field and the social condition of

the progress of reason, in Mario Biagioli *The Science Studies Reader*, P.31-51.

**Sunday April 1: 3-4:15pm**

*Session B: Rules and habitus beyond structures*

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1977. Outline of a theory of practice. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Ch1 "The fallacies of the rule" P.16-30.

**Sunday April 1: 4:30-6pm**

Discussion: *The technology of Bourdieu's sociology: Factorial analysis*

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1999. Une Revolution Conservatrice dans l'Edition. *Actes de la Recherche en Sciences Sociales*. 126:3-28. (check out pages 7, 8, 11, 12)

Accessible at [http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/arss\\_0335-5322\\_1999\\_num\\_126\\_1\\_3278](http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/arss_0335-5322_1999_num_126_1_3278)

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Boltanski & Thevenot, American pragmatisms and moral philosophy

**Monday April 2: 6-7:15pm**

*Session A: Sense of justice and argumentation*

Chateauraynaud, Francis. Public Controversies and the Pragmatics of Protest. Toward a Ballistics of Collective Action. Working Paper for the Harvard/MIT seminar Winter 2009.

**Monday April 2: 7:30-9pm**

*Discussion of students fieldwork "worlds" and "repertoires"*

**Tuesday April 3: 6-7:15pm**

*Session B: Spheres, cites and worlds*

Thevenot, Laurent and Michele Lamont. 2000. *Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology. Repertoires of Evaluation in France and the United States*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. P1-20; 229-306.

**Tuesday April 3: 7:30-9pm**

*Discussion: The technology of pragmatic sociologies: Argumentation in complex social issues by Prospero (Chateauraynaud)*

Chateauraynaud, Francis and Josquin Debaz. The distribution of hypersensitivity. The sudden appearance of people with electrical hypersensitivity in the public space. *Sciences Sociales et Sante*, September 2010.

<http://gspr.ehess.free.fr/documents/FC-JD-Hypersensitivity.pdf>

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Networks and the end of the social: Callon & Latour

**Friday April 6: 6-7:15pm**

*Session A: Upstream and influences and positioning re Bourdieu and Boltanski/Thevenot*

Serres on communication and translation

Serres on Leibnitz

Deleuze on Nietzsche and Spinoza

**Friday April 6: 7:30-9pm**

*Session B: Representation and translation*

Latour, Bruno. 1994. "On Technical Mediation. Philosophy, Sociology, Genealogy".

*Common Knowledge* 3(2): 29-64.

Paris, invisible city

<http://www.bruno-latour.fr/virtual/EN/index.html>

**Saturday April 7: 3-4.15pm**

*Session C: What is a body and what can a body make us do?*

Mol, AnneMarie. 2006. *The Body Multiple*. Duke University Press.

Mialet, Helene. 1999. "Do Angels have bodies? Two stories about subjectivity in science" *Social Studies of Science* 29(4): 551-581.

**Saturday April 7: 4:30-6pm**

*Discussion: Presentations of their "Actor-Network" by the students*

**Sunday April 8: 3-4.15pm**

*Session D: Calculation*

Callon, Michel. 1998. *The Laws of the Market*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Introduction.

Tarde Gabriel. 1902. *Psychologie Economique*. In Latour and Lepinay 2009 *The Science of Passionate Interests*. Prickly Paradigm Press. Part 1.

**Sunday April 8: 4:30-6pm**

*Discussion: The technology of ANT: Reseau-Lu (Mogoutov)*

Cambrosio, Alberto, Peter Keating and Andrei Mogoutov. 2004. "Mapping Collaborative Work and Innovation in Biomedicine: A Computer-Assisted Analysis of Antibody Reagent Workshops." *Social Studies of Science* 34, 325-364.