SOCIOLOGY 476
SEMINAR IN MICROSOCIOLOGY

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

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Office hours: Thursday 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

This seminar is designed to expose you to the realm of sociological research that focuses on the dynamics of interaction and the role of small groups in organizing society. Much of the heritage and unique contribution of sociology, of course, is to examine states, institutions, organizations, transcendent forces, and Durkheim social facts. Microsociology takes a different approach, equally sociological. Our task is to examine the structure and the process of interaction. We examine those elements that are local and are observable. This is our mandate as microsociologists.

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 Wednesday 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.

There are three 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 many weeks (in the last half of class), to a disjointed discussion.

Second, we can avoid an extended 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.

Third, 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 will be addressed the first week of class.

Books Necessary:
Sigmund Freud, Group Psychology
Erving Goffman, Presentation of Self in Everyday Life
George Herbert Mead, Mind, Self & Society
Eviatar Zerubavel, Social Mindscapes

September 21   INTRODUCTION

September 28   SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGICAL MINIATURISM

    John Stolte, Gary Alan Fine and Karen Cook. "Sociological
        Miniaturism: Seeing the Big Through the Small in Social
        Psychology." Annual Review of Sociology 27, 2001, 387-
        413.
    Kenneth Gergen, "Social Psychology as History." Journal of
        Personality and Social Psychology 26, 1973, 309-320.
    James House, "Social Psychology, Social Science, and
        Economics: Twentieth Century Progress and Problems,
        Twenty-First Century Prospects." Social Psychology
        Quarterly 71, 2008, 232-56.
    Randall Collins, "On the Microfoundations of
        Macrosociology," American Journal of Sociology 86,
        1981, 984-1014.
    Eviatar Zerubavel, Social Mindscapes, 1997 (all).

October 5   IDENTITY/SELF

    George Herbert Mead, Mind, Self, and Society, 1934, "Self."
    Erving Goffman, Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, 1959,
        Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 6, 7
    Ralph Turner, "The Real Self: From Institution to Impulse."
        American Journal of Sociology 81, 1976, 980-1016.
    Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper, "Beyond 'Identity'."
        Theory and Society 29, 2000, 1-47.
    Howard Becker, "Becoming a Marihuana User." American Journal
        of Sociology 59, 1953, 235-42.

October 12   CULTURE

Ugo Corte, "A Refinement of Collaborative Circles
     Theory: Resource Mobilization and Innovation in an
     Emerging Sport." Social Psychology Quarterly 76, 2013,
     25-51.
Nina Eliasoph and Paul Lichterman, "Culture in Interaction,"
     American Journal of Sociology 108, 2003, 735-94.
Gary Alan Fine, "Small Groups and Culture Creation,"
     American Sociological Review 1979, 44, 733-45.
Michael Farrell, "Artist Circles and the Development of
     Artists," Small Group Behavior 13, 1982, 451-74.
Donald Roy, "'Banana Time': Job Satisfaction and Informal
     Interaction." Human Organization 18, 1960, 158-168.

October 19   INTERACTION

Carol Brooks Gardner, "Access Information: Public Lies and
     Private Peril." Social Problems 35, 1988, 384-97.
Harold Garfinkel, "Studies of the Routine Grounds of
     Everyday Activities." Social Problems 11, 1964, 225-50.
Celeste Campos-Castillo and Steven Hitlin. 2013.
     "Copresence: Revisiting a Building Block for Social
     Interaction Theories." Sociological Theory 31, 2013,
     168-92.
Kevin A. Whitehead, "Categorizing the Categorizers: The
     Management of Racial Common Sense in Interaction."
     Social Psychology Quarterly 72, 2009, 325-42.
Mark Granovetter, "The Strength of Weak Ties." American
     Journal of Sociology 78, 1973, 1360-80.

October 26   GROUPS

Freud, 1921, all
Steve Pfaff, "Collective Identity and Informal Groups in
     Revolutionary Mobilization: East Germany in 1989."
     Social Forces 75, 1996, 91-118.
Gary Alan Fine and Brooke Harrington, "Tiny Publics: Small
     Groups and Civil Society." Sociological Theory 22,
     2004, 341-56.
Kurt Lewin, Ronald Lippitt, and Ralph K. White, "Patterns of
     Aggressive Behavior in Experimentally Created Social
     Climates," Journal of Social Psychology 10, 1939, 271-
     299.
George Simmel, "The Number of Members as Determining the
     Sociological Form of the Group." American Journal of
     Sociology 8, 1902-1903, 1-46, 158-96.

November 2   EMOTIONS

Lynn Smith-Lovin, "The Strength of Weak Identities: Social Structural Sources of Self, Situation, and Emotional Experience." <u>Social Psychology Quarterly</u> 70, 2007, 106-24.

Candace Clark, "Sympathy Biography and Sympathy Margin." <u>American Journal of Sociology</u> 93, 1987, 290-321.

Arlie Hochschild, "Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure," <u>American Journal of Sociology</u> 85, 1979, 551-75.

Jason Schnittker, "Diagnosing Our National Disease: Trends in Income and Happiness, 1973 to 2004." <u>Social Psychology Quarterly</u> 71, 2008, 257-280.

Theodore Kemper, "How Many Emotions Are There?" <u>American Journal of Sociology</u> 93, 1987, 263-89.

November 9   NEGOTIATION/ORGANIZATION

Erving Goffman, "The Interaction Order." <u>American Sociological Review</u> 48, 1983, 1-17.

Tim Hallett, "The Myth Incarnate: Recoupling Processes, Turmoil, and Inhabited Institutions in an Urban Elementary School." <u>American Sociological Review</u> 75, 2010, 52-74.

Patrick McGinty, "Divided and Drifting: Interactionism and the Neglect of Social Organizational Analysis in Organizational Studies." <u>Symbolic Interaction</u> 37, 2014, 155-86.

Anselm Strauss, "Interorganizational Negotiation." <u>Urban Life</u> 11, 1982, 350-67.

Iddo Tavory and Nina Eliasoph, "Coordinating Futures: Toward a Theory of Anticipation." <u>American Journal of Sociology</u> 118, 2013, 908-42.

November 16   MICRO-POLITICS

Gianpaolo Baiocchi, "Emergent Public Spheres: Talking Politics in Participatory Governance." <u>American Sociological Review</u> 68, 2003, 52-74.

Neil Fligstein, "Social Skill and the Theory of Fields." <u>Sociological Theory</u> 19, 2001, 105-25.

Hank Johnston, "Let's Get Small: The Dynamics of (Small) Contention in Repressive States." <u>Mobilization</u> 11, 2006, 195-212.

Andrew Perrin. "Political Microcultures: Linking Civic Life and Democratic Discourse." <u>Social Forces</u> 84, 2005, 1049-82.

Francesca Polletta and John Lee. 2006. "Is Telling Stories Good for Democracy: Rhetoric in Public Deliberation after 9/11." <u>American Sociological Review</u> 71: 699-723.

NOVEMBER 23   THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 30   CLASS PRESENTATIONS