

Department of Sociology, Uppsala University

Doctoral Program

Course: Theory of Science for Social Scientists

Course instructor: Vessela Misheva

Course outline

The course provides doctoral students with the conceptual background necessary to understand the basic tenets of the modern theory of science from a social science perspective. It offers a concise introduction to the central theoretical and methodological problems of the social sciences today, addressing a range of topics from contemporary discussions concerning knowledge positions, truth production, the micro-macro link, and social science methodology. Some issues to which special emphasis is given include the changing patterns of social thinking, models of scientific development, the sociology of knowledge, the sociology of science, the question of truth, pragmatism, positivism, constructionism, relativism, realism, feminist, and postmodernist epistemologies.

Duration: 2017-03-23 – 2017-06-02

Schedule:

23 Mar 13:15-15:00 Eng/2-1026 Introduction and lecture
 07 Apr 13:15-15:00 Eng/3-0014 Lecture and mini-seminar
 13 Apr 13:15-15:00 Eng/2-1026 Lecture and mini-seminar
 19 Apr 13:15-15:00 Eng/2-1026 Lecture and mini-seminar
 24 Apr 13:15-15:00 Eng/2-1025 Lecture and mini-seminar
 28 Apr 13:15-15:00 Eng/2-1026 Lecture and mini-seminar
 04 May 10:15-13:00 Eng/2-1026 Lecture and mini-seminar
 11 May 13:15-15:00 Eng/2-0027 Lecture and mini-seminar
 16 May 13:15-15:00 Eng/2-1026 Lecture and mini-seminar
 22 May 13:15-15:00 Eng/2-1026 Lecture and mini-seminar
 26 May 10:15-13:00 Eng/2-1026 Lecture and mini-seminar
 2 June 09:00 -13:00 Eng/2-1026 Final Seminar

Grading: G/U

Obligatory Readings:

Theme 1. Models of scientific development

Thomas Kuhn (1962) "The Nature and Necessity of Scientific Revolutions." In: *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. <http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/kuhn.html>

Popper, K. (1963) "Science as Falsification." In: *Conjunction and Refutation*. http://www.stephenjaygould.org/ctrl/popper_falsification.html

Imre Lakatos & Musgrave Alan (1970) *Excerpt from Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge.

Theme 2. The Positivist Approach and the Question of Truth

Auguste Comte (1830) *The Positive Philosophy of Auguste Comte*, Transl. Harriet Martineau.
<http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/comte/Philosophy3.pdf>

Durkheim (1895) *The Rules of Sociological Method*, pp. 60-81.
<http://durkheim.uchicago.edu/Summaries/rules.html>

Theme 3. The Sociology of Knowledge

Robert Merton (1968) "The Sociology of Knowledge" In: *Social Theory and Social Structure*, pp. 510-562.

Alan Richardson (2004) "Robert Merton and Philosophy of Science," *Social Studies of Science* 34/6, pp. 855-58. On-line reading through the library.

Derek L. Phillips (1974) "Epistemology and the Sociology of Knowledge: The Contributions of Mannheim, Mills, and Merton." *Theory and Society*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Spring, 1974), pp. 59-88.

Henrika Kuklick (1983) "The Sociology of Knowledge: Retrospect and Prospect." *Annual Review of Sociology*, Volume 9, 287-310.

Theme 4. The Sociology of Science

Joseph Ben-David (1965) The Scientific Role: The Conditions of its Establishment in Europe. *Minerva*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (September 1965), pp. 15-54.

Joseph Ben-David (1970) The Rise and Decline of France as a Scientific Centre. *Minerva*, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 160-179.

Raymond Boudon (2001) "Sociology that Really Matters." *European Sociological Review*, Vol. 18, No. 3, 371-378.

Randall Collins and Sal Restivo (1983) "Development, Diversity, and Conflict in the Sociology of Science." *The Sociological Quarterly*, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 185-200.

Theme 5. The Micro-Macro Link/Gap

Joan Huber (1990) "Macro-Micro Links in Gender Stratification: 1989 Presidential Address. *American Sociological Review*. Volume 55, Issue 1, pp. 1-10.

F.L. Jones (1995) "Micro-macro linkages in sociological analysis: theory, method and substance." *Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 74- 92.

Richard A. Hilbert (1990) "Ethnomethodology and the Micro-Macro Order." *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 55, No. 6, pp. 794-808.

Randall Collins (1988) "The Micro Contribution to Macro Sociology." *Sociological Theory*, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 242-253.

Theme 6. Pragmatism and the Theory of Truth

Charles S. Peirce (1905) "What Pragmatism Is." *The Monist*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (April, 1905), pp. 161-181

William James (1904) "What Pragmatism Means. Lecture II."

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/james.htm>

William James (1907) "Pragmatism's Conception of Truth." *The Journal of Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Methods*, Vol. 4, No. 6, 14, pp. 141-155.

John Dewey. "The Development of American Pragmatism" In: Larry Hickman, Thomas Alexander (eds) *The Essential Dewey*, Vol. 1, 84-101.

Joan Huber Rytina and Charles P. Loomis (1970) Marxist Dialectic and Pragmatism: Power as Knowledge. *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Apr., 1970), pp. 308-318

Theme 7. The Phenomenological Approach and the Question of Truth

Thomas S. Eberle (2012) "Phenomenology and Sociology: Divergent interpretations of a Complex Relationship." In: Nasu and Waksler (eds.) *Interaction and Everyday Life. Phenomenological and Ethnomethodological Essays in Honor of George Psathas*. pp. 135-152.

https://www.alexandria.unisg.ch/217052/1/Phenomenology_and_Sociology_In_Interaction_and_Everyday_Life.pdf

Schutz, Alfred (1945). "On Multiple Realities," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. Vol. 5, No.4, pp. 533-57. On-line reading through the library.

James L. Heap; Phillip A. Roth. (1973) "On Phenomenological Sociology." *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 38, No 3, pp. 354-367.

Theme 8. Constructionism, Relativism, Truth

Niklas Luhmann (2003) "The Cognitive Program of Constructivism and a Reality that Remains Unknown" In: *From Modernism to Postmodernism*, Blackwell, 2003, pp. 496-511.

Alvesson (2009) "(Post-)positivism, social constructionism, critical realism: Three Reference Points in the Philosophy of Science." *Reflexive Methodologies*. SAGE, pp. 15-52.

http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/28039_02_Alvesson_2e_Ch_02.pdf

Tom Andrews (2012) "What is Social Constructionism?" *The Grounded Theory Review*. Vol. 11, N.1.m pp. 39-46. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/235102122_What_is_Social_Constructionism

Ismael Al-Amoudi (2007) "Redrawing Foucault's Social Ontology." *Organization*. Volume 14(4): 543–563. <http://org.sagepub.com/content/14/4/543.full.pdf+html>

Theme 9. Feminist Epistemologies

Donna Haraway (1988) "Situated Knowledgees: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective." *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 14, No. 3, pp. 575-599.

Elizabeth Anderson (1995) "Feminist Epistemology: An Interpretation and a Defense." *Hypatia*, Vol. 10, No. 3, Analytic Feminism, pp. 50-84.

Patricia Ewick (1994) Integrating Feminist Epistemologies in Undergraduate Research Methods. *Gender and Society*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 92-108.

Susan Hekman (1997) "Truth and Method: Feminist Standpoint Theory Revisited." *Signs*, Vol. 22, No. 2, pp. 341-365

Joseph Rouse (2009) "Standpoint Theories Reconsidered." *Hypatia*, Vol. 24, No. 4, pp. 200-209.

Sandra Harding (2009) "Standpoint Theories: Productively Controversial." *Hypatia*, Vol. 24, No. 4, pp. 192-200

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (1999) "Can the Subaltern Speak?" In: Ch. Lamert: Social Theory. The Multicultural and Classical Readings,, Western Press, 548-552.

http://abahlali.org/files/Can_the_subaltern_speak.pdf

Stanfield, John H. (1985) "The Ethnocentric Basis of Social Science Knowledge Production." Review of Research in Education, Vol. 12, pp. 387-415.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1167154.pdf>

Theme 10. Constructivism and the Question of Truth

Colin Phillips "Constructivism and Epistemology," *Philosophy*, Vol. 53, No. 203, 1978, 51-69. On-line reading through the library.

Hosking, Dian Marie and Bettine Pluut (2010) "(Re)constructing Reflexivity: A Relational Constructionist Approach. *The Qualitative Report*, Volume 15, Number 1, pp. 59-75. On-line reading through the library.

Pepe, Alberto (2008) "Socio-epistemic analysis of scientific knowledge production in little science research." *Triple C (Cognition, Communication, Cooperation)* Vol. 6, No 2. Pp. 134-145. On-line reading through the library.

Sandberg, Jörgen (2005) "How do We Justify Knowledge Produced Within Interpretive Approaches?" *Organizational Research Methods*. Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 41-68. On-line reading through the library.

<http://www.hu.liu.se/larc/utbildning-information/scientificmethodology/course-literature-and-links/1.253569/Trustworthy.pdf>

Cruickshank, Justin (2014) "Problem-Solving And The Social Production Of Knowledge: A Reply to Isaac Reed." *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* Vol. 3, no.2, pp. 24-33. On-line reading through the library. <http://social-epistemology.com/2014/01/14/problem-solving-and-the-socialproduction-of-knowledge-a-reply-to-isaac-reed-justin-cruickshank/>

Theme 11. Science and Society

Justin Cruickshank (2015) "Anti-Authority: Comparing Popper and Rorty on the Dialogic Development of Beliefs and Practices." *Social Epistemology*, Vol. 29, No. 1, 73-94,

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02691728.2013.782589>

Reed, Isaac Ariail (2013) "Science, Democracy and Sociology in the 21st Century: Response to Cruickshank's 'Anti-authority'." *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*, Vol. 2, No. 12 (2013): 40-45. On-line reading through the library.

FINAL SEMINAR

Additional readings will be given in class.

WELCOME!