

SOC190 – URBAN INEQUALITY AND MARGINALITY TROPES AND TOOLS

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Fall 2013 – Tuesday 4-6pm 402 Barrows

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After characterizing the major paradigms for studying the city (ecological, Marxist, neo-Weberian, microinteractionist, identity based, Bourdieusian), we consider salient features of urban inequality and marginality: the rise of social dislocations in the inner city; how state and neighborhood affect life chances; the difference between ghetto, ethnic cluster, and slum; the variety and dynamism of the informal economy; the impact of street-corner institutions; why poor youngsters go into gendered bodily crafts; how honor and interest intermingle in street drug dealing; the survival strategies of the homeless in San Francisco; and how the jail contains and entrenches disruptive poverty. Throughout, we pay close attention not only to the empirical phenomenon at hand, getting close to ground level, but also to issues of conceptualization, political censorship, and implications for social justice.

This course samples theoretical approaches to the city and deploys them to explore salient features of inequality and marginality in the American metropolis at century's turn. We first map out the space of theories of the city as *urbs* (place) and *civitas* (associational form) and then focus on the tangled nexus of poverty, ethnoracial division, and violence in the "inner city." We probe forms and mechanisms of sociospatial seclusion and explicate the logics of polarization from below. We dissect several classic works on precarious wage labor, neighborhood institutions, the jail and the streets, with a view towards identifying recurrent tropes as well as weighing the strengths and weaknesses of contending views of "the city" as *social constellation, concentrate, prism, and laboratory*. As we proceed, we try out the conceptual tools and scope the concerns of contemporary urban sociology, asking what is distinctive about it as a form of inquiry and consciousness, and what it contributes to our understanding of the social condition and present historical predicament.

This course will give you a taste of both urban sociology and graduate school learning. Its format mixes lectures, individual presentations, group discussion and written exercises. You are expected to read and ruminate over the assigned materials each week *prior* to class meeting. The readings for this course are copious and you should budget your time well to ingest and digest them *as we proceed*; otherwise you will not benefit from the lectures and you will not be in a position to contribute to the discussion. Each session a pair of students will present that week's readings and lead discussion; one student will outline and defend the writings assigned while the other offers a methodical critique of it. Both students will prepare a one-page synopsis of the major points to be debated.

Final grade will be based equally on three elements: 1- your participation in discussion throughout the semester, including your class presentations and synopses; 2- a critical review of two books covered by the course or closely related to it (3 single-spaced pages, including references) **due on week 6**; 3- a well-written and tightly argued term paper (10 pages max.)

engaging a research topic or several of the works sampled in the course, **due on week 14** (after instructor approval on week 6). Deadlines are *imperative* and shall *not* be extended.

The required texts are available from the usual bookstore(s) and on reserve at Moffitt. The remaining articles and dispersed pieces are available on line through bspace (at SOC190-Fall2013 URB). Note that we skip the week of Thanksgiving and will have two extended sessions (4-7pm on 8 October and 3 December). Please plan your schedules accordingly.

Required books

- Bourgois, Philippe. 1995. In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, new edition 2002.
- Gowan, Teresa. 2009. Hobos, Hustlers, and Backsliders: Homeless in San Francisco. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Hannerz, Ulf. 1980. Exploring the City. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Irwin, John. 1980. The Jail: Managing the Underclass. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Sánchez-Jankowski, Martín. 2009. Cracks in the Pavement: Social Change and Resilience in Poor Neighborhoods. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Venkatesh, Sudhir Alladi. 2006. Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Wacquant, Loïc. 2008. Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Wacquant, Loïc. [2000] 2004. Body and Soul: Notebooks of an Apprentice Boxer. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Wilson, William Julius. 1987, 2012. The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass and Public Policy. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, new edition.

1. A MAP OF URBAN SOCIOLOGY I: OF THE CITY OR IN THE CITY?

(3 September)

- Isin, Engin. 2003. "Historical Sociology of the City." Pp. 312-325 in Handbook of Historical Sociology. Edited by Gerard Delanty and Engin F. Isin. London: Sage.
- Castells, Manuel. 2000. "Urban Sociology in the Twenty-First Century." Pp. 390-405 in The Castells Reader.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. [1991] 2013. "Site Effects." In The Weight of the World. Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 123-129.
- Wacquant, Urban Outcasts, Prologue, pp. 1-11.
- Wacquant, Loïc. 2013. "Marginality, Ethnicity and Penalty in the Neoliberal City: An Analytic Cartography." Ethnic & Racial Studies, Symposium: in press.

Supplementary

- Mumford, Lewis. 1968. The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects. New York: Harvest.
- Williams, Raymond. 1975. The Country and the City. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Sennett, Richard. 1992. The Conscience of the Eye: The Design and Social Life of Cities. New York: Norton.

2. MAPPING URBAN SOCIOLOGY II: CHICAGO RAMPARTS

(10 September)

Simmel, Georg. [1905] 1950. "The Metropolis and Mental Life." Pp. 409-424 in The Sociology of Georg Simmel. Edited by Kurt H. Wolff. New York: Free Press.

Park, Robert and Ernest Burgess. 1925. The City. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, chapters 1-3, pp. 1-79: "The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment" (Park); "The Growth of the City" (Burgess); "The Ecological Approach to the Study of the Human Community" (McKenzie).

Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." American Journal of Sociology 4: 1-24.

Hannerz, Exploring the City, chapter 2.

Supplementary

Fischer, Claude. 1995. "The Subcultural Theory of Urbanism: A Twentieth-Year Assessment." American Journal of Sociology 101-3 (November): 543-577.

Smith, David A. 1995. "Rereading Some Classical Human Ecology: The New Urban Sociology Meets the Old." Urban Affairs Review 30, 3: 432-457.

Sampson, Robert J. 2012. Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

3. MAPPING URBAN SOCIOLOGY III: MARXIST AND WEBERIAN BARBARIANS

(17 September)

Engels, Friedrich. [1845] "The Great Towns." Conclusion of The Condition of the Working Class in England. New York: Penguin (pp. 46-55 in LeGates and Stout, The City Reader).

Harvey, David. 1978. "The Urban Process Under Capitalism: A Framework For Analysis." International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 2:101-131.

Weber, Max. [1921] "The Nature of the City" (from The City, 1958). Reprinted in R. Sennett (ed.), Classic Essays on the Culture of Cities. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1969, pp. 23-46.

Walton, John. 1993. "Urban Sociology: The Contribution and Limits of Political Economy." Annual Review of Sociology 19: 301-320.

Hannerz, Exploring the City, chapter 3.

Recommended

Castells, Manuel. [1975] 1977. The Urban Question: A Marxist Approach. London: Edward Arnold.

Katznelson, Ira. 1994. Marxism and the City. New York: Oxford University Press.

Logan, John R. and Harvey L. Molotch. 1987. Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place. Berkeley: University of Chicago Press, new ed. 2007.

4. THE CRISIS OF THE INNER CITY & THE INVENTION OF THE "UNDERCLASS"

(24 October)

Wilson, The Truly Disadvantaged, chapters 1, 2, 5, 7.

- Marks, Carol. 1991. "The Urban Underclass." Annual Review of Sociology 17: 445-466.
- Small, Mario L. and Katherine Newman. "Urban Poverty After 'The Truly Disadvantaged': The Rediscovery of the Family, the Neighborhood, and Culture." Annual Review of Sociology 27:23-45.

Supplementary

- Katz, Michael B. 1989. The Undeserving Poor: From the War on Poverty to the War on Welfare. New York: Random.
- Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton. 1992. American Apartheid. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Sharkey, Patrick. 2013. Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress toward Racial Equality. Chicago 2013.

5. SOCIOSPATIAL SECLUSION: GHETTO, ETHNIC CLUSTER, AND SLUM

(1st October)

- Sennett, Richard. 1994. "Fear of Touching." Chapter 7, pp. 212-251 in Flesh and Stone: The Body and the City in Western Civilization. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Wacquant, Loïc. 2012. "A Janus-Faced Institution of Ethnoracial Closure: A Sociological Specification of the Ghetto." Pp. 1-31 in Ray Hutchison and Bruce Haynes (eds.), The Ghetto: Contemporary Global Issues and Controversies, Boulder, Westview.
- Wacquant, Loïc. 2010. "Designing Urban Seclusion in the 21st Century." Perspecta: The Yale Architectural Journal 43: 165-178
- Gilbert, Alan. 2007. "The Return of the Slum: Does Language Matter?" International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 31, no. 4: 697-713.

Recommended

- Drake, St. Clair and Horace Cayton. 1945, 1970. Black Metropolis: A Study of Negro Life in a Northern City. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Nelli, Humbert S. 1970. Italians in Chicago: A Study in Ethnic Mobility. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Calame, Jon and Esther Charlesworth. 2010. Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

***6. GHETTO, HYPERGHETTO, ANTI-GHETTO**

(8 October, 4-7pm)

>>*Book review due. Brief presentations by seminar participants.*

Wacquant, Urban Outcasts, chapters TBA.

Read as a guide: Wacquant, Loïc. 2013. "Revisiting Territories of Relegation," in Emma Shaw and Ananya Roy (eds.), Territories of Poverty, Athens (GA), University of Georgia Press, 2013.

Recommended

- Wilson, William Julius. 1996. When Works Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor. New York: Knopf.

Musterd, Sako, Alan Murie and Christian Kesteloot (eds.). 2006. Neighbourhoods of Poverty: Urban Social Exclusion and Integration in Europe. London: Palgrave.

Ladányi, János Szélényi, Iván. 2006. Patterns of Exclusion: Constructing Gypsy Ethnicity and the Making of an Underclass in Transitional Societies of Europe. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

7. STREET-CORNER INSTITUTIONS

(15 October)

Sánchez-Jankowski, Cracks in the Pavement, chapters 4 and 5, pp. 113-177 (Mom-and-Pop Stores as Neighborhood Institution”).

Supplementary

Anderson, Elijah. 1978. A Place on the Corner. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bell Michael J. 1982. The World from Brown’s Lounge: An Ethnography of Black Middle-Class Play. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

8. WORKING AT THE MARGINS

(22 October)

Venkatesh, Off the Books, chapters TBA.

Wacquant, Loïc. [1993] 1998. “Inside the Zone: The Social Art of the Hustler in the Black American Ghetto.” Theory, Culture & Society 15, no. 2 (May): 1-36.

Supplementary

Liebow, Elliott. 1968. Tally’s Corner: A Study of Negro Streetcorner Men. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, new ed. 2003.

MacLeod, Jay. 1988, 1995. Ain’t No Makin’ It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-income Neighborhood. Boulder: Westview.

Young, Alford A. 2006. The Minds of Marginalized Black Men: Making Sense of Mobility, Opportunity, and Future Life Chances. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

9. BODILY TRADES

(29 October)

Wacquant, Body & Soul, part 1, pp. 1-99.

Wacquant, Loïc. 2011. “Habitus as Topic and Tool: Reflections on Becoming a Prizefighter.” Qualitative Research in Psychology 8 (Spring): 81-92.

Miller, Jody. 1995. “Gender and Power on the Streets: Street Prostitution in the Era of Crack Cocaine.” Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 23, no. 4: 427-452.

Supplementary

Keil Charles. 1967. Urban Blues. Chicago: Phoenix Books, 1992 reprint, selections.

Joravsky, Ben. 1996. Hoop Dreams: True Story of Hardship and Triumph. New York: HarperCollins.

10. CITY OF DREAD: UNRULY BODIES, DRUGS, AND VIOLENCE

(5 November)

Bourgois, In Search of Respect, chapters 1, 3-6.

Supplementary

Black, Timothy. 2009. When a Heart Turns Rock Solid: The Lives of Three Puerto Rican Brothers on and off the Streets. New York: Vintage.

Contreras, Randol. 2012. The Stickup Kids: Race, Drugs, Violence, and the American dream. Berkeley: University of California Press.

11. LUMPEN CITY: ADRIFT ON THE STREET

(12 November)

Lee, Barrett A., Kimberly A. Tyler and James D. Wright. 2010. "The New Homelessness Revisited." *Annual Review of Sociology* 36: 501-521.

Gowan, Hobos, Hustlers, and Backsliders, chapters TBA.

Supplementary

Bourgois, Philippe and Jeff Schoenberg. 2009. Righteous Dopefiend. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Snow, David A., and Leon Anderson. 1993. Down on their luck: A study of homeless street people. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Wagner, David. 1993. Checkerboard Square: Culture and Resistance in a Homeless Community. Boulder: Westview.

12. THE JAIL AS URBAN DUSTBIN

(19 November)

Irwin, The Jail, entire, with focus on chapters 2-6, pp. 18-100.

Wacquant, Loïc. 2008. "The Place of the Prison in the New Government of Poverty." Pp. 23-36 in After the War on Crime: Race, Democracy, and a New Reconstruction. Edited by Marie-Louie Frampton et al.. New York: New York University Press.

Supplementary

Beckett, Katherine and Steve Herbert. 2010. Banished: The New Social Control In Urban America. New York: Oxford University Press.

Bogira, Steve. 2005. Courtroom 302 : A Year Behind the Scenes in an American Criminal Courthouse. New York: Knopf.

Wacquant, Loïc. 2009. Punishing the Poor: The Neoliberal Government of Social Insecurity. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

SKIP WEEK (26 November): enjoy the turkey!

13. TOPIC TO BE DECIDED

(3 December)

Some candidates

Auyero, Javier and Debrah Swistun. 2009. Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hays, Sharon. 2004. Flat Broken with Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform. New York: Oxford University Press.

Contreras, Randol. 2012. The stickup kids: Race, drugs, violence, and the American dream. University of California Pr, 2012.

Sampson, Robert J. 2012. Great American city: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Supplementary

Holston, James (ed.). 1998. Cities and Citizenship. Durham: Duke University Press Books.

Hall, Peter. 1988. Cities of Tomorrow. Cambridge: Basil Blackwell.

>>*Reminder: your term paper is due with your class folder TODAY*