DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL Spring, 2011

Sociology of Culture

(SOCI 870)

Mondays, 10:30–1:00 Hamilton 151

Andrew Perrin

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Course Overview

Course Goals

- 1. To survey the literature in the sociology of culture, with an emphasis on current approaches to culture
- 2. To stimulate ideas for empirical work in cultural sociology
- 3. To offer cultural tools for application to empirical research

Requirements

- 1. Attendance and active participation in class discussions
- 2. One or more class periods in which you distribute a "seminar paper" ahead of time and lead discussion of the material for that period
- 3. One presentation of your current work for the class during the workshop period
- 4. An in-depth writing project related to cultural sociology

Course Format

Readings and Discussion

Course meetings will generally alternate between "book weeks" and "article weeks." On book weeks we will read a single book in its entirety and spend the first half of class discussing it. On article weeks we will read several related articles and spend the *entire* class discussing them.

Because of the sheer volume of great work in cultural sociology, it will be impossible to cover the field comprehensively or even talk about each reading separately at each class meeting. As you do the reading for the week, consider which pieces you think will be most fruitful for us to discuss in depth.

Workshop

During the second half of book-week classes, we will discuss the research work being carried out by two or three students in the class. Each student will present informally once during the course of the semester, and the rest of the class will provide insight and advice. This will underscore the class's workshop character.

READINGS AND RESOURCES

There will be a site for this course created at http://blackboard.unc.edu. We will use this course to post documents and seminar papers as well as for general discussion.

Sociology students taking this class may also be interested in joining the ongoing Cultural and Political Sociology Workshop at UNC. I will be happy to provide information. Also, students may be interested in joining the ASA Section on the Sociology of Culture, a vibrant intellectual home for cultural sociologists.

Most required readings that are not in the books listed below are available for download from the course readings site, http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu/readings, or via Blackboard. You will need a username and password to access the readings site; these will be provided in class.

The recommended readings listed under many class sessions are suggestions for further reading in the field. Students presenting on those dates, and those with particular interests in the areas, may find them useful.

Required Books

Victoria Johnson. Backstage at the Revolution: How the Royal Paris Opera Survived the End of the Old Regime (University of Chicago Press, 2008).

Joseph Tobin, Yeh Hsueh, and Mayumi Karasawa. Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited: China, Japan, and the United States (University of Chicago Press, 2009).

Olav Velthuis. Talking Prices: Symbolic Meanings of Prices on the Market for Contemporary Art (Princeton University Press, 2007).

Robin Wagner-Pacifici. Discourse & Destruction: The City of Philadelphia vs. MOVE (University of Chicago Press, 1994).

Course Schedule

January 10 Introduction and course organization

- Lecture: A history of, and agenda for, cultural sociology
- Adam Kuper, "Introduction: Culture Wars." pp. 1–20 in *Culture: The Anthropologists' Account.* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999)
- Jeffrey Alexander and Philip Smith. "The Strong Program in Cultural Sociology: Elements of a Structural Hermeneutics." pp. 11-26 in Alexander, *The Meanings of Social Life*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Ann Swidler, "Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies." ASR 51(April 1986): 273-286 http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28198604%2951%3A2%3C273%3ACIASAS%3E2.0.C0%3B2-B

January 17 Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday

January 24 Contemporary Debates in Theory and Method

First half:

- Michael Schudson, "How Culture Works: Perspectives from Media Studies on the Efficacy of Symbols." Theory and Society 18:2 (Mar., 1989), pp. 153-180. http://links.jstor.org/ sici?sici=0304-2421%28198903%2918%3A2%3C153%3AHCWPFM%3E2.0.C0%3B2-G
- Luc Boltanski and Laurent Thévenot, "The Sociology of Critical Capacity." European Journal of Social Theory 2:3 (1999): 359–377

- Nina Eliasoph and Paul Lichterman. "Culture in Interaction." American Journal of Sociology 108:4 (Jan2003), p735, 60p http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?an=10375843&db=afh
- Lisa Wedeen, "Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science." American Political Science Review 96:4 (December 2002): 713-728. http://www.journals.cambridge.org/issue_AmericanPoliticalScienceReview/Vol96No04
- Ron Jepperson and Ann Swidler, "What Properties of Culture Should We Measure?" *Poetics* 22 (1994): 359–371 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0304-422X(94)90014-0

Second half:

- Wendy Griswold, "A Methodological Framework for the Sociology of Culture." Sociological Methodology 17(1987): 1-35. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0081-1750%281987% 2917%3C1%3AAMFFTS%3E2.0.C0%3B2-6
- Ronald Breiger, "A Tool Kit for Practice Theory." Poetics 27 (2000); 91-115.
- Amin Ghaziani. "An 'amorphous mist'? The problem of measurement in the study of culture." Theory & Society 38 (2009): 581-612. http://www.springerlink.com/content/r0668188778x2348/
- Susan Cotts Watkins and Ann Swidler. "Hearsay ethnography: Conversational journals as a method for studying culture in action." *Poetics* 37 (2009), 162–184. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2009.03.002
- Andrew Perrin, "Who's Afraid of Linear Regression?" Culture 18:3 (Spring, 2004) http://www.ibiblio.org/culture/newsletter/cult183.pdf, and replies at http://www.ibiblio.org/culture/newsletter/cult191.pdf

Recommended:

- John Levi Martin, "What Is Field Theory?" American Journal of Sociology 109:1 (Jul2003). http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?an=11652039&db=afh
- Eviatar Zerubavel, "Lumping and Splitting: Notes on Social Classification." Sociological Forum 11 (1996): 421-33.
- William H. Sewell, Jr. "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation," AJS 98:1 (July, 1992): 1–29 http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28199207%2998% 3A1%3C1%3AATOSDA%3E2.0.C0%3B2-9
- Peter Wagner, "Power, Uncertainty, and Institution in Recent French Debates." Journal of Political Philosophy 2(3): 270-289
- Shalom H. Schwartz, "Mapping and interpreting cultural differences around the world." pp. 43–73 in Henk Vinken, Joseph Soeters, and Peter Ester, eds. *Comparing Cultures: Dimensions of Culture in a Comparative Perspective*. (Leiden: Brill, 2004).
- John W. Mohr, "Measuring Meaning Structures." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24 (1998): 345–370. http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.soc.24.1.345

January 31 Art

First Half:

- Howard S. Becker, "Art As Collective Action." American Sociological Review 39:6 (Dec., 1974), pp. 767-776. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28197412%2939%3A6% 3C767%3AAACA%3E2.0.C0%3B2-Z
- Babon, Kim. "Composition, coherence, and attachment: The critical role of context in reception." *Poetics* 34 (2006): 151–179. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2006.01.
- Eck, Beth. "Nudity and Framing: Classifying Art, Pornography, Information, and Ambiguity." Sociological Forum 16:4 (December, 2001): 603-632. http://www.springerlink.com/content/t175114104u37816/
- Nicola Beisel, "Morals Versus Art: Censorship, The Politics of Interpretation, and the Victorian Nude." American Sociological Review 58:2 (Apr., 1993), pp. 145-162. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28199304%2958%3A2%3C145%3AMVACTP%3E2.0.C0%3B2-9

- DiMaggio, Paul. 1987. "Classification in Art." American Sociological Review 52: 440-455. http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095290
- Paul DiMaggio. 1991. "Cultural Entrepreneurship in Nineteenth-Century Boston: The Creation of an Organizational Base for High Culture in America." Pages 374-397 in *Rethinking Popular Culture*, edited by Chandra Mukerji and Michael Schudson. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Hayagreeva Rao, Philippe Monin, and Rodolphe Durand. "Institutional Change in Toque Ville: Nouvelle Cuisine as an Identity Movement in French Gastronomy." *American Journal of Sociology*, 108:4 (Jan2003), p795, 49p, 7 charts. http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp? an=10375850&db=afh
- February 7 Olav Velthuis, Talking Prices: Symbolic Meanings of Prices on the Market for Contemporary

 Art

February 14 Music and Literature

First Half:

- Richard Peterson and Roger Kern, "Changing Highbrow Taste: From Snob to Omnivore." ASR 61:5 (October, 1996): 900–907. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224% 28199610%2961%3A5%3C900%3ACHTFST%3E2.0.C0%3B2-Y
- Jennifer C. Lena and Richard A. Peterson, "Culture as Classification: Types and Trajectories of Music Genres." ASR 73:5 (October 2008). http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/asoca/asr/2008/00000073/00000005/art00001
- Bryson, "'Anything But Heavy Metal': Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes." American Sociological Review, Vol. 61, No. 5. (Oct., 1996), pp. 884-899. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28199610%2961%3A5%3C884%3A%22BHMSE%3E2.0.C0%3B2-0
- Josée Johnston and Shyon Baumann, "Democracy versus Distinction: A Study of Omnivorousness in Gourmet Food Writing." AJS Volume 113 Number 1 (July 2007): http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/518923

Second Half:

- T.J. Dowd, K. Liddle, K. Lupo and A. Borden. "Organizing the Musical Canon: The Repertoires of Major U.S. Symphony Orchestras, 1842 to 1969." *Poetics* 30 (1-2): 35-61. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0304-422X(02)00007-4
- Stamatov, Peter. 2002. "Interpretive Activism and the Political Uses of Verdi's Operas in the 1840s" American Sociological Review 67: 345-366. http://www.jstor.org/stable/info/3088961
- Andrew Cheyne and Amy Binder. "Cosmopolitan preferences: The constitutive role of place in American elite taste for hip-hop music, 1991–2005." Poetics 38 (2010), 336–364. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2010.01.001
- Steven J. Tepper and Eszter Hargittai. "Pathways to Music Exploration in a Digital Age." *Poetics* 37 (2009): 227–249. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2009.03.003
- Jennifer Schultz and Ronald L. Breiger. "The Strength of Weak Culture." *Poetics* 38:6 (December, 2010): 610-624. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2010.09.002

Recommended:

- Richard A. Peterson, "Why 1955? Explaining the Advent of Rock Music." *Popular Music* 1990. http://www.jstor.org/stable/info/852886
- February 21 Johnson, Backstage at the Revolution: How the Royal Paris Opera Survived the End of the Old Regime

February 28 Political culture

First Half:

Perrin, Andrew J. "Political Microcultures: Linking Civic Life and Democratic Discourse."
 Social Forces 84:2 (December, 2005), 1049-1082. http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/social_forces/v084/84.2perrin.pdf

- Ronald Jacobs, "Civil Society and Crisis: Culture, Discourse, and the Rodney King Beating," AJS 101:5 (March, 1996), 1238–1272. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602% 28199603%29101%3A5%3C1238%3ACSACCD%3E2.0.C0%3B2-H
- Nina Eliasoph, "'Close to Home': The Work of Avoiding Politics." *Theory and Society* 26:5 (Oct., 1997), pp. 605-647. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0304-2421%28199710% 2926%3A5%3C605%3A%22THTW0%3E2.0.C0%3B2-H
- Jeffrey C. Alexander and Philip Smith. "The Discourse of American Civil Society: A New Proposal for Cultural Studies." *Theory and Society* 22:2 (Apr., 1993), pp. 151-207. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0304-2421%28199304%2922%3A2%3C151%3ATD0ACS%3E2.0.C0%3B2-L

Second Half:

- Marc W. Steinberg, "The Dialogue of Struggle: The Contest over Ideological Boundaries in the Case of London Silk Weavers in the Early Nineteenth Century." Social Science History 18:4 (Winter, 1994): 505–541. http://www.jstor.org/stable/info/1171253
- Richard Biernacki, "Labor As an Imagined Commodity." *Politics & Society* 29:2 (June, 2001): 173–206 http://pas.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/29/2/173
- Peter Bearman and Katherine Stovel, "Becoming a Nazi: A Model for Narrative Networks." Poetics 27 (2000): 69–90 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0304-422X(99)00022-4
- Patricia Ewick and Susan Silbey, "Narrating Social Structure: Stories of Resistance to Legal Authority." *American Journal of Sociology* 108:6 (May, 2003): 1328–1372. http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/378035

Recommended:

- Nina Eliasoph, Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1998)
- Paul Lichterman, *The Search for Political Community* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1996)
- Myra Marx Ferree, William Anthony Gamson, Jürgen Gerhards, and Dieter Rucht. Shaping Abortion Discourse: Democracy and the Public Sphere in Germany and the United States. (Cambridge University Press, 2002)
- Walsh, Talking About Politics

March 7 Spring Break

March 14 Collective and Collected Memory

First Half:

- Olick & Robbins, "Social Memory Studies: From 'Collective Memory' to the Historical Sociology of Mnemonic Practices." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24(1998): 105-140. http://soc.annualreviews.org/cgi/reprint/24/1/105.pdf
- Lyn Spillman, "When Do Collective Memories Last?" Social Science History; Winter 1998, 22:4, p445. http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=9352669&site=ehost-live
- Robin Wagner-Pacifici and Barry Schwartz. "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Commemorating a Difficult Past." *The American Journal of Sociology* 97:2 (Sep., 1991), pp. 376-420. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28199109%2997%3A2%3C376%3ATVVMCA%3E2.0.C0%3B2-1
- Hiro Saito, "Reiterated Commemoration: Hiroshima as National Trauma." Sociological Theory 24:4 (December, 2006). http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9558.2006.00295.x
- Rivera, Lauren A.. "Managing 'Spoiled' National Identity: War, Tourism, and Memory in Croatia." *American Sociological Review*, Volume 73, Number 4, August 2008, pp. 613-634. http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/asoca/asr/2008/00000073/00000004/art00005

- Howard Schuman and Jacqueline Scott, "Generations and Collective Memories." American Sociological Review, Vol. 54, No. 3 (Jun., 1989), pp. 359-381 http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095611
- Larry J. Griffn. "'Generations and Collective Memory' Revisited: Race, Region, and Memory of Civil Rights." *American Sociological Review* Aug 2004. Vol. 69, Iss. 4; p. 544 http://www.jstor.org/stable/info/3593064
- Paul DiMaggio, "Culture and Cognition." *Annual Review of Sociology* Aug 1997, Vol. 23: 263-287. http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.soc.23.1. 263

March 21 Robin Wagner-Pacifici, Discourse & Destruction: The City of Philadelphia vs. MOVE

March 28 Politics, Institutions, Deliberation

First Half:

- Frederick Wherry, "Trading Impressions: Evidence from Costa Rica." The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science,610:1, 217-231 (2007). http://ann.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/610/1/217
- Timothy Mitchell. "Fixing the Economy." Cultural Studies 12:1 (1998): 82. http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all?content=10.1080/095023898335627
- Larry Isaac. "Movement of Movements: Culture Moves in the Long Civil Rights Struggle." Social Forces 87:1 (2008). https://auth.lib.unc.edu/ezproxy_auth.php?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=35369769&site=ehost-live&scope=site
- Jo Reger and Lacey Story. "Talking About My Vagina: Two College Campuses and *The Vagina Monologues*." pp. 139–160 in Reger, ed., *Different Wavelengths: Studies of the Contemporary Women's Movement* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

Second Half:

- Philippe-Joseph Salazar. "Compromise and Deliberation: A Rhetorical View of South Africa's Democratic Transformation." Social Science Information 43:2 (2004): 145–166. http://ssi.sagepub.com/content/43/2/145
- Andrew J. Perrin and Stephen Vaisey. "Parallel Public Spheres: Distance and Discourse in Letters to the Editor." AJS 114:3 (November, 2008), 781–810. http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/590647
- Gabriel Ignatow. "Culture and Embodied Cognition: Moral Discourses in Internet Support Groups for Overeaters." Social Forces 88:2 (December 2009). http://find.galegroup.com/gtx/infomark.do?contentSet=IAC-Documents&docType=IAC&type=retrieve&tabID=T002&prodId=AONE&docId=A216682561&userGroupName=unc_main&version=1.0&searchType=AdvancedSearchForm&sourgale&infoPage=infoMarkPage

April 4 Body and Brain

Note: Prof. Perrin may be out of town so we will need to reschedule this meeting.

First Half:

- Iddo Tavory and Ann Swidler. "Condom Semiotics: Meaning and Condom Use in Rural Malawi." ASR 74 (April, 2009): 171–189. http://asr.sagepub.com/content/74/2/171
- Elizabeth Levy Paluck and Donald P. Green. "Deference, Dissent, and Dispute Resolution: An Experimental Intervention Using Mass Media to Change Norms and Behavior in Rwanda." APSR 103 (2009): 622–644. http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract? aid=6648180
- Amy Koerber. "From Folklore to Fact: The Rhetorical History of Breastfeeding and Immunity, 1950–1997." Journal of Medical Humanities 27 (2006): 161–166. http://www.springerlink.com/content/cg246103822665r0/

- Omar Lizardo. "'Mirror Neurons,' Collective Objects and the Problem of Transmission: Reconsidering Stephen Turner's Critique of Practice Theory." Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour 37:3 (September, 2007): 319-350. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/emailArticleLink?doi=10.1111/j.1468-5914.2007.00340.x
- Stephen P. Turner. "Mirror Neurons and Practices: A Response to Lizardo." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour* 37:3 (September, 2007): 351-371. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/emailArticleLink?doi=10.1111/j.1468-5914.2007.00342.x
- Karen Cerulo. "Mining the Intersections of Cognitive Sociology and Neuroscience." *Poetics* 38:2 (April 2010), 115–132. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2009.11.005
- John Levi Martin. "Life's a beach but youre an ant, and other unwelcome news for the sociology of culture." *Poetics* 38:2 (April 2010), 229–244. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2009.11.004

April 11 Cross-Culture

First Half:

- Rick Fantasia. "Fast Food in France." *Theory and Society* 24:2 (Apr., 1995), pp. 201-243. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0304-2421%28199504%2924%3A2%3C201%3AFFIF%3E2.0.C0%3B2-B
- Rick Fantasia. "Culture in Rebellion: The Appropriation and Transformation of the Veil in the Algerian Revolution." in Johnston and Klandermans, eds. Social Movements and Culture. New York: Routledge, 1995.
- Adam Gopnik, "Like a King: How to have a baby in France." *The New Yorker* January 31, 2000.
- Janssen, Susanne; Kuipers, Giselinde; Verboord, Marc. "Cultural Globalization and Arts Journalism: The International Orientation of Arts and Culture Coverage in Dutch, French, German, and U.S. Newspapers, 1955 to 2005." American Sociological Review, 73:5, October 2008, 719–740. http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/asoca/asr/2008/00000073/00000005/art00002
- Myra Marx Ferree, "Resonance and Radicalism: Feminist Framing in the Abortion Debates of the United States and Germany." *American Journal of Sociology* 109:2 (September, 2003): 304–344. http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/AJS/journal/issues/v109n2/070143/070143.web.pdf

- Michéle Lamont and Virag Molnar, "The Study of Boundaries in the Social Sciences." Annual Review of Sociology 2002. http://soc.annualreviews.org/cgi/reprint/28/1/167.pdf?ijkey=080Q69x0hutyA&keytype=ref&siteid=arjournals
- Anna C. Korteweg, "The Construction of Gendered Citizenship at the Welfare Office: An Ethnographic Comparison of Welfare-to-Work Workshops in the United States and the Netherlands." Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society 2006 13(3):314-340 http://sp.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/13/3/314
- Abigail Saguy, "Sexual Harassment in France and the United States" in Lamont and Thévenot, Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology (Cambridge University Press, 2000)
- Omar Lizardo and Sara Skiles, "Highbrow omnivorousness on the small screen?: Cultural industry systems and patterns of cultural choice in Europe." *Poetics* 37:1 (February, 2009): 1–23. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2008.10.001
- Recommended: Ronald Inglehart and Wayne E. Baker, "Modernization, Cultural Change, and the Persistence of Traditional Values." *American Sociological Review*, 65:1 (Feb., 2000), pp. 19-51. http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28200002%2965%3A1%3C19%3AMCCATP%3E2.0.C0%3B2-E
- April 18 Tobin, Hsueh, Karasawa, "Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited: China, Japan, and the United States"

NOTE: Final papers due

First Half:

- Melissa J. Wilde. "How Culture Mattered at Vatican II: Collegiality Trumps Authority in the Council's Social Movement Organizations." *American Sociological Review* 69: 4 (August 2004), 576. http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/asoca/asr/2004/00000069/00000004/art00006
- Donald MacKenzie and Yuval Millo. "Constructing a Market, Performing Theory: The Historical Sociology of a Financial Derivatives Exchange." *American Journal of Sociology* 109:1, (Jul2003). p107, 39p. http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?an=11652037&db=afh

- Stephen Vaisey, "Socrates, Skinner, and Aristotle: Three Ways of Thinking About Culture in Action." Sociological Forum 23:3 (September, 2008), 603-613. http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120840878/abstract
- Ann Swidler, "Comment on Stephen Vaisey's 'Socrates, Skinner, and Aristotle: Three Ways of Thinking About Culture in Action.'" *Sociological Forum* 23:3 (September, 2008), 614–618. http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120840884/abstract
- Stephen Vaisey, "Reply to Ann Swidler." Sociological Forum 23:3 (September, 2008),619-622. http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120840879/abstract
- Richard Ned Lebow, "If Mozart had Died at Your Age: Psychologic Versus Statistical Interence." *Political Psychology* Volume 27 Issue 2, Pages 157 172. http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118627944/abstract
- Course evaluations