

Soc 137: Money, Work, and Social Life

Filiz Garip
Department of Sociology
644 William James Hall
fgarip@wjh.harvard.edu

Time: Monday and Wednesday 12-1pm
Location: Harvard Hall 104
Office Hours: Monday 9-10am
Website: <http://isites.harvard.edu/k91261>
TFs: Cassi Pittman cpittman@fas.harvard.edu
Kim Pernel pernell@fas.harvard.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The course offers a sociological account of production, consumption, distribution, and transfer of assets. Examining different sectors of the economy from corporations and finance to households, immigrants, welfare, and illegal markets, we explore how in all areas of economic life people are creating, maintaining, symbolizing, and transforming meaningful social relations. Economic life, from this perspective, is as social as religion, family, or education.

REQUIREMENTS

1. One in-class midterm examination – short essays (30% of the grade).
2. One in-class final examination – short essays (40%).
3. One research paper (1,500 to 2,500 words). Due on the last day of the reading period, May 5 by 5pm (20%).
4. Precept participation (10%).

READINGS

All required readings are available through the course website. Students must do the readings each week before the class meets.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. (Jan 28 & 30) Competing Analyses of Economic Life

- Richard Swedberg and Mark Granovetter, *The Sociology of Economic Life*, second edition. Boulder, Colorado: Westview, 2001, "Introduction," pp. 1-28.
- Gary Becker, *Accounting for Tastes*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1996, chapter 7, pp. 139-156, "The Economic Way of Looking at Life."
- Mark Granovetter, *Getting a Job: A Study of Contacts and Careers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995 [1974], Introduction, pp. 3-22; chapters 2 and 3, pp. 41-62.
- Christine L. Williams, *Still A Man's World: Men Who Do Women's Work*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995, chapter 1, pp. 1-5; chapter 5, pp. 81-108.

Week 2. (Feb 4 & Feb 6) Sociological Toolkit for Understanding the Economy

- Mark Granovetter. "Economic Action and Social Structure," *American Journal of Sociology*, 1985, 91(3): 481-510.
- Paul DiMaggio. 1994. "Culture and Economy." Pp. 27-57 in *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, first edition, edited by Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg. New York: Russell Sage Foundation and Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Viviana Zelizer. 2005. "Circuits within Capitalism." Pp. 289-322 in *The Economic Sociology of Capitalism*, edited by Victor Nee and Richard Swedberg. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Frank Dobbin. 2004. "The Sociological View of the Economy." Pp. 1-7 in *The New Economic Sociology: A Reader*, edited by Frank Dobbin. Princeton University Press: Princeton.

Week 3. (Feb 11 & 13) Money and Finance

- Viviana Zelizer, "Official Standardization vs. Social Differentiation in Americans' Uses of Money." pp. 82-96 in Emily Gilbert and Eric Helleiner, editors, *Nation-States and Money: The Past, Present and Future of National Currencies*. London: Routledge, 1999.
- Peter Bearman, *Doormen*, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2005, Preface, pp. ix-xii; chapter 6, pp. 171-205, "The Bonus."
- Mitchel Y. Abolafia, *Making Markets*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1996, Introduction, pp. 1-13; chapter 1, pp. 14-37, "Homo Economicus Unbound: Bond Traders on Wall Street."
- Charles Smith, "Auctions: From Walras to the Real World," pp. 176-192 in *Explorations in Economic Sociology*, edited by Richard Swedberg. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1993.

Week 4. (Feb 18 & 20) Firms and Corporations (Presidents's day holiday, no class on Monday.)

- Annalee Saxenian, *Regional Advantage: Culture and Competition in Silicon Valley and Route 128*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1994, Introduction, pp. 1-9; chapter 2, "Silicon Valley: Competition and Community," pp. 29-57.
- Nicole Woolsey Biggart, *Charismatic Capitalism: Direct Selling Organizations in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989, Introduction, pp. 1-19; chapter 4, pp. 70-97.
- Frank Dobbin and Dirk Zorn, "Corporate Malfeasance and the Myth of Shareholder Value," *Political Power and Social Theory*, 2005, volume 17: pp. 179-98.
- Rakesh Khurana, "The Curse of the Superstar CEO," *Harvard Business Review*, September 2002, pp. 3-8.

Week 5. (Feb 25 & 27) Labor Markets (Presidents'ß day holiday, no class on Monday.)

- Chris Tilly and Charles Tilly, *Work Under Capitalism*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview, 1998, chapter 2, pp. 21-35; chapter 9, pp. 178-98.
- Paula England and Nancy Folbre, "Gender and Economic Sociology," pp. 627-49 in *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, second edition, edited by Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg. New York: Russell Sage Foundation and Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.
- Deirdre A. Royster, *Race and the Invisible Hand*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003, introduction, pp. 1-15; chapter 7, pp. 144-78, "Networks of Inclusion, Networks of Exclusion."
- Alex Stepick III and Guillermo Grenier, "Cubans In Miami," pp. 79-100 in *In The Barrios*, edited by Joan Moore and Raquel Pinderhughes. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1993.

Week 6. (Mar 4 & Mar 6) Consumer Markets

- Benjamin Barber, *Consumed*. New York: Norton, 2007, chapter 1, pp. 3-37, "Capitalism Triumphant and the Infantilist Ethos."
- Viviana Zelizer, "Culture and Consumption," pp. 331-54 in *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, second edition, edited by Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg. Princeton: Princeton University Press, and New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2005.
- Lizabeth Cohen, "From Town Center to Shopping Center: The Reconfiguration of Community Marketplaces in Postwar America." *American Historical Review*, 1996, volume 101, pp. 1050-81.
- Christine Williams, *Inside Toyland*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006, chapter 5, pp. 137-84, "Kids in Toyland."
- Elizabeth Warren, "The Middle Class on the Precipice," *Harvard Magazine*, January-February 2006, <http://www.harvardmagazine.com/online/010682.html>

Week 7. (Mar 11 & 13) Review and Midterm

Spring Recess (Mar 16 – Mar 24)

Week 8. (Mar 25 & 27) Household Economies

- Julie Brines, “Economic Dependency, Gender, and the Division of Labor at Home,” *American Journal of Sociology*, volume 100, 1994, pp. 652-688.
- Kathryn Edin, Timothy J. Nelson, and Rechelle Paranel. “Fatherhood and Incarceration as Potential Turning Points in the Criminal Careers of Unskilled Men.” pp. 46-75 in *Imprisoning America: the Social Effects of Mass Incarceration*, edited by Mary Patillo, David Weiman, and Bruce Western. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2004.
- Christopher Carrington, “Domesticity and the Political Economy of Lesbian Families,” pp. 82- 107 in *Families at Work*, edited by Naomi Gerstel, Dan Clawson, and Robert Zussman. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2002.
- Katherine Newman, *Falling From Grace*. New York: Vintage, 1989, Preface, pp. ix-xii, chapter 4, “The Downwardly Mobile Family,” pp. 95-142.
- Marjorie Faulstich Orellana, “The Work Kids Do: Mexican and Central American Immigrant Children’s Contributions to Households and Schools in California,” *Harvard Educational Review*, 2001, volume 71, pp. 366-89.

Week 9. (Apr 1 & 3) Intimate Economies

- Richard A. Posner, *Sex and Reason*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1992, chapter 5, “Sex and Rationality,” pp. 111-145.
- Viviana A. Zelizer, *The Purchase of Intimacy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005, prologue, pp. 1-6; chapter 3, “Coupling,” pp. 94-157.
- Arlie R. Hochschild. 1989. "The Economy of Gratitude," pp. 95-113 in *The Sociology of Emotions: Original Essays and Research Papers*, edited by Thomas Hood. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.
- Nancy Folbre and Julie Nelson, “For Love or Money – or Both?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (2000) 14: 123-140.

Week 10. (Apr 8 & 10) Informal and Illegal Economies

- Alejandro Portes and William Haller, “The Informal Economy ,” pp. 403-25 in *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, second edition, edited by Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg. New York: Russell Sage Foundation and Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.
- Mitchell Duneier, *Sidewalk*. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1999, Introduction, pp. 3-14, part I, “The Magazine Vendors,” pp. 43-80
- Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh, *Off the Books*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006, prologue, ix-xix; chapter 2, “Home at Work,” pp. 21-37.
- Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, *Freakonomics*. New York: William Morrow, 2005, chapter 3, “Why Do Drug Dealers Still Live with Their Moms?” pp. 89-114.

Week 11. (Apr 15 & 17) Markets in Human Goods

- Kieran Healey, *Last Best Gifts. Altruism and the Market for Human Blood and Organs*, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2006, chapter 1, “Exchange in Human Goods,” and chapter 2, “Making a Gift,” pp. 1-42.
- Rene Almeling, “Gendering Commodification: How Egg Agencies and Sperm Banks Organize the Medical Market in Genetic Material.” *American Sociological Review*, 2007, volume 72, pp. 319-40.
- S. M. Rothman and D. J. Rothman, “The Hidden Cost of Organ Sale,” *American Journal of Transplantation* 6, 2006: 1524-28.
- E. A. Friedman and A.L. Friedman, “Payment for donor kidneys: Pros and cons,” *Kidney International*, 2006, volume 69, pp. 960-962.
- Debora L. Spar, *The Baby Business. How Money, Science, and Politics Drive the Commerce of Conception*. Boston, Mass.: Harvard Business School Press, 2006, chapter 6, “Trading Places. The Practice and Politics of Adoption,” pp. 159-193.

Week 12. (Apr 22 & 24) Globalization and Local Economic Life

- James Watson, “Transnationalism, Localization, and Fast Foods in East Asia,” pp. 1-38; 183--97 in *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia*, edited by James Watson. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2d. edition, 2006.

- Alejandro Portes, “Globalization from Below: The Rise of Transnational Communities,” pp. 253-270 in *The Ends of Globalization: Bringing Society Back In*, edited by Don Kalb et al. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 2000.
- Annalee Saxenian, *The New Argonauts: Regional Advantage in a Global Economy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006, introduction, pp. 1-21; chapter 3, 82-104.
- Arlie Hochschild, “The Nanny Chain,” *The American Prospect* 2000, 11, pp. 32-36.
- Mary Blair-Loy and Jerry A. Jacobs, “Globalization, Work Hours, and the Care Deficit Among Stockbrokers,” *Gender & Society*, 2003, 17, pp. 230-249.

Week 13. (Apr 29 & May 1) The Future of Economic Life

- Charles Tilly, “Global Connections and Disturbances, 1980-2050,” in *Politics, Exchange and Social Life in World History* co-authored by John Coatsworth, Juan Cole, Michael Hanagan, Peter Perdue, Charles Tilly and Louise Tilly, forthcoming, 2008.
- William Easterly, “The Big Push Déjà Vu: A Review of Jeffrey Sach’s The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time,” *Journal of Economic Literature*, March 2006, XLIV, 96-105.
- Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000, Introduction, pp. 15-28, chapter 19, “Economic Prosperity,” pp. 319-25.
- Clive Thompson, “Game Theories,” *The Walrus*, 2004, pp. 1-14.
<http://www.walrusmagazine.com/article.pl?sid=04/05/06/1929205&tid=1>