

Sociology of Exchange

Soc 590 – Spring 2015 – Tuesdays 3:30 to 5:20

Professor Sarah Quinn – squinn@uw.edu, Office Hours: <http://www.meetme.so/SarahQuinn>

Course Description: This class focuses on how types of transfers – of gifts, monies, and loans – create or discharge different types of social obligations. Along the way, we will consider central topics of economic sociology that inform this discussion: property rights, valuation, circuits of capital, solidarity, identity, inequality, power, risk, governance, and debt. This class will be run as a seminar, and participants will lead discussion after the first meeting. At the end of the quarter students will submit a 15-20 page research proposal or pilot study on a topic related to the course. We will workshop these on the last day of the quarter.

Week 1: Introduction

- Peebles, Gustav. 2010. "The Anthropology of Credit and Debt." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 39:225-40.
- Carruthers, Bruce G. and Laura Ariovich. 2004. "[The Sociology of Property Rights](#)." *Annual Review of Sociology* 30(1): 23-46.
- Zelizer, Viviana. 2005. *The Purchase of Intimacy*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. "[Introduction](#)"

Week 2: Gifts

- Mauss, Marcel. 1954. *The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies*.

Week 3: Credit

- Pocock, J. G. A. [1978] 1985. "[The Mobility of Property and the Rise of Eighteenth-Century Sociology](#)." Pp. 103-123 in *Virtue, Commerce, and History: Essays on Political Thought and History, Chiefly in the Eighteenth Century*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Muldrew, Craig. 1998. [The Economy of Obligation: The Culture of Credit and Social Relations in Early Modern England](#). New York: St. Martin's press. "Introduction: Deconstructing Capitalism" P. 1 – 11; Chapter 10 Conclusion: "The Contractual Society"
- Polillo, Simone. 2011. "Money, Moral Authority, and the Politics of Creditworthiness." *American Sociological Review* 76:437-64

Week 4: Money

- **Proposal for final paper due today (1 page).**
- Dodd, Nigel. 2014. "Introduction" in *The Social Life of Money*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton.
- Orléan, André. 2014. "Money: Instrument of Exchange or Social Institution of Value." Pp. 46-69 in Pixley, Jocelyn, G. C. Harcourt and Geoffrey K. Ingham. 2013. *Financial Crises and the Nature of Capitalist Money: Mutual Developments from the Work of Geoffrey Ingham*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Carruthers, Bruce G. and Sarah Babb. 1996. "The Color of Money and the Nature of Value: Greenbacks and Gold in Postbellum America." *The American Journal of Sociology* 101(6): 1556-91.

Week 5: Valuation

- Espeland, Wendy Nelson and Mitchell L. Stevens. 1998. "Commensuration as a Social Process." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24(1): 313-43.
- Alex Preda. 2009. "Brief Encounters: Calculation and the Interaction Order of Anonymous Electronic Markets." *Accounting, Organizations & Society* 5: 675-93
- Fourcade, Marion. 2011. "Cents and Sensibility: Economic Valuation and the Nature of "Nature." *American Journal of Sociology* 116(6): 1721-77.
- MacKenzie, Donald. 2011. "The Credit Crisis as a Problem in the Sociology of Knowledge." *American Journal of Sociology* 116(6): 1778-841.

Week 6: States

- Carruthers, Bruce G. and Arthur L. Stinchcombe. 1999. "The Social Structure of Liquidity: Flexibility, Markets, and States." *Theory and Society* 28(3): 353-82.
- Krippner, Greta. 2011. *Capitalizing on Crisis: The Political Origins of the Rise of Finance*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Read the introduction and at least two of the empirical chapters closely.

Week 7: Circuits

- Lainer-Vos, Dan. 2012. "Manufacturing National Attachments: Gift-Giving, Market Exchange and the Construction of Irish and Zionist Diaspora Bonds." *Theory and Society* 41(1): 73-106.
- Bataille, Georges. 1988. *The Accursed Share: An Essay on General Economy*. New York: Zone Books. Volume I, Part I, Theoretical Introduction (Pp. 19-41) and "The Marshall Plan" (Pp. 169-190)
 - Recommended: *The Accursed Share*, Vol 1, Parts I & II
- Healy, Kieran. 2004. "Altruism as an Organizational Problem: The Case of Organ Procurement" *American Sociological Review* 69(3): 387-404

Week 8: Debt and the Law

- Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm and Francis Golfing. 1990 [1956]. *The Birth of Tragedy and The Genealogy of Morals*. New York: Anchor Books. Selected pages.
- Alexes Harris, Heather Evans and Katherine Beckett. 2010. "Drawing Blood from Stones: Legal Debt and Social Inequality in the Contemporary United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 115(6): 1753-99.
- Quinn, Sarah. *American Bonds*. Chapter 3.

Week 9: Obligations & Opportunities

- Tilly, Charles. 2001. "Relational Origins of Inequality." *Anthropological Theory* 1(3): 355-72.
- Fourcade, Marion and Kieran Healy. 2013. "Classification Situations: Life-Chances in the Neoliberal Era." *Accounting, Organizations and Society* 38(8): 559-72
- Devah Pager and H Shepherd. 2008. "The Sociology of Discrimination: Racial Discrimination in Employment, Housing, Credit, and Consumer Markets," *Annual Review of Sociology* 34:181-209.
- Stuart, Guy. 2003. *Discriminating Risk: The U.S. Mortgage Lending Industry in the Twentieth Century*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. "Chapter 5: Lending Discrimination"

Week 10: Presentations