

Sociology 572
Fall 2001
Th 4:10-6:50

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TEMPORALITY IN SOCIAL ANALYSIS

In this course we will examine the orientations to temporality that undergird different analytical approaches in sociology. We will start by looking at general conceptions of temporality as expressed by major theorists such as Durkheim, Mead, Schutz, Whitehead, Luhmann, and Elias, as well as at how these theorists are contributing to (or being invoked in) the recently bubbling critique that most standard techniques in sociology are static and atemporal. We will then examine the array of recent theoretical and methodological approaches that attempt, in very different ways, to “bring time back in.” These will include approaches focusing on the personal and social experience of temporality – including time perspective, narrative, and interactionist approaches – as well as those focusing on the use of temporality in social and historical explanation. Among these we will look at historical/comparative approaches; statistical techniques such as time series and event history analysis, sequence analysis and formal approaches to narrative analysis. We will discuss both the theoretical underpinnings of these approaches as well as their practical implications (possibilities and limitations) for the conduct of sociological research.

I consider this course to be a joint exploration in thinking about the problems and possibilities involved in incorporating temporality into our theoretical formulations and empirical research. I hope to address some of the tensions I experience in my own work, and I hope you all bring your own research interests and questions to the discussion. Readings will for the most part consist of 5-6 articles per class (with suggestions for additional readings if you have time). Every week you will be required to write a 1-2 page memo, which should be written *prior* to class. *These memos should NOT just be summaries of the readings, but rather places to explore the points that really excited, disturbed, or perplexed you in the reading.* The memos are also a good place to explore how the approaches to temporality that we are discussing might apply to your own empirical research.

It is very important that these memos are written *prior* to class. In my experience, the reflection that goes into memos greatly enhances the quality of class discussion. In addition, one person for each class will serve as our “dialogist.” Again, the role of the dialogist is NOT just to give a presentation summarizing the reading. The dialogist should come up with *a critical comparison AND a set of questions about the readings to start off the discussion.* These comparisons and questions should be sketched on a short *handout* given to the class.

Finally, you are required to write a final paper (20-30 pages) in which you conduct some sort of temporal analysis of a social process of your choice. The paper can adopt one specific approach, or your own combination of several approaches. Your paper should include *a critical discussion of the theoretical and methodological assumptions underlying your choice of temporal approaches, as well as a discussion of how your analysis might have differed if you had used a different approach.* For those of you working on qualifying papers and/or dissertation

proposals, this might be a good opportunity to explore the theoretical and methodological foundations of your developing research.

Grading: your final grade will be based 1/3 on the memos (which I'll grade check, check plus, check minus), 1/3 on class participation, and 1/3 on the final paper.

I. GENERAL THEORIES OF TEMPORALITY

Week 1 (9/6). Introduction: why is time a problem for sociological analysis?

Emirbayer and Mische (1998) "What is Agency?" *AJS* 103:962-1023

Week 2 (9/13) Classical theorists on time

Katoavich (1987): "Durkheim's Macrofoundations of Time: An Assessment and Critique." *Sociological Quarterly* 28: 367-385.

Molseed (1987): "The Problem of Temporality in the Work of Georg Simmel." *Sociological Quarterly* 28:357-366.

Maines, Surgrue, and Katovich (1983): "The Sociological Import of G.H. Mead's Theory of the Past." *ASR* 48:161-173.

Abbott (2001): "Temporality and Process in Social Life." Pp. 209-239 in *Time Matters: On Theory and Method*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Schutz (1962) "Teiresias or Our Knowledge of Future Events." From *Collected Papers*, Volume II (pp 277-281); Volume IV (pp. 51-66)

Week 3 (9/20). Temporality and modernity

Elias (1987): "Preface" to *Time: An Essay*. Oxford UK: Blackwell. Pp. 1-36.

Luhmann (1976): "The Future Cannot Begin: Temporal Structures in Modern Society." *Social Research* 43:130-152).

Giddens? "Time and Social Organization" in *Social Theory and Modern Sociology*.

Sorokin and Merton (1937): "Social Time: A Methodological and Functional Analysis." *AJS* 42:615-629.

Lewis and Weigert (1981): "The Structures and Meanings of Social Time." *Social Forces* 60:432-462.

Zerubavel (1982): "The Standardization of Time: A Sociohistorical Perspective." *AJS* 88: 1-23)

If you have time, this article has useful commentary on some of the above authors

Jaworski (1992): "Classicism and Romanticism in the Sociology of Time." *Sociological Inquiry* 61: 522-534).

II. TIME AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCE

Week 4 (9/27). Time perspective and consciousness

- Coser and Coser (1963): "Time Perspective and Social Structure." Pp. 167-79 in *A Handful of Thistles: Collected Papers in Moral Conviction*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.
- Howard and Hollander (1993): "Marking Time." *Sociological Inquiry* 63: 425-443.
- Cinnirella (1998): "Exploring Temporal Aspects of Social Identity: The Concept of Possible Social Identities." *European Journal of Social Psychology* 28:227-248.
- Ross and Newby-Clark (1998) "Construing the Past and Future." *Social Cognition* 16:133-150.
- Flaherty (1991): "The Perception of Time and Situated Engrossment." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 54:76-85).
- Flaherty (1987): "Multiple Realities and the Experience of Duration." *Sociological Quarterly* 28: 313-326.

If you have time:

- Lewin (1942): "Time Perspective and Morale." Pp. 48-441 in *Civilian Morale, New York: Reynal and Hitchcock*.
- Trommsdorff (1983): "Future Orientation and Socialization." *International Journal of Psychology* 18: 381-406.
- Lennings, Burns, and Cooney (1998): "Profiles of Time Perspective and Personality: Developmental Considerations." *The Journal of Psychology* 132: 629-641.
- Fingerman and Perlmutter (1995): "Future Time Perspective and Life Events Across Adulthood." *The Journal of General Psychology* 122: 95-?.
- Hesketh (2000): "Time Perspective in Career-Related Choices: Applications of Time-Discounting Principles." *Journal of Vocational Behavior* 57: 62-84.

Week 5 (10/4). Time, narrative, and the life course

- Elder (1994): "Time, Agency, and Social Change: Perspectives on the Life Course." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 57: 4-15.
- Cohler (1982): "Personal Narrative and the Life Course." *Life-Span Development and Behavior* 4: 205-241.
- Kohli (1986): "Social Organization and the Subjective Construction of the Life Course." Pp. 271-292 in *Human Development and the Life Course: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives*, eds Soreson, Weinart, and Sherrod. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Mayer and Schoefflin (1989): "The State and the Life Course." *Annual Review of Sociology* 15:187-209.
- Ezzy (2000): "Illness narratives: Time, Hope, and HIV." *Social Science and Medicine* 50: 605-617.
- Sandelowski, Harris, and Holditch Davis. (1991): "The Clock Has Been Ticking, the Calendar Pages Turning, and We Are Still Waiting: Infertile Couples' Encounter with Time in the Adoption Waiting Period." *Qualitative Sociology* 14: 147-173.

If you have time:

Brim and Ryff (1980): "Life Events"? *Life-Span Development and Behavior* 3: 367-387)

Redfoot and Back (1988): The Perceptual Presence of the Life Course." *International Journal of Aging and Human Development* 27:155-70.

Nydegger (1986): "Timetables and Implicit Theory." *American Behavioral Scientist* 20:710-729.

Maines and Hardesty (1987): Temporality and gender: Young Adults' Career and Family Plans." *Social Forces* 66: 102-120.

Sampson and Laub (1990): Crime and Deviance over the Life Course: The Salience of Adult Social Bonds." *AJS* 55: 609-627.

Week 6 (10/110). Temporalities in social and institutional life

Zerubavel (1979): "Private Time and Public Time: The Temporal Structure of Social Accessibility and Professional Commitments." *Social Forces* 58: 38-58.

Fine (1990): "Organizational Time: Temporal Demands and the Experience of Work in Restaurant Kitchens." *Social Forces* 69: 95-144.

Hazan (1984): "Continuity and Transformation among the Aged: A Study in the Anthropology of Time." *Current Anthropology* 25: 567-578.

Klingeman (2000): "'To Every Thing There Is a Season: Social Time and Clock Time in Addiction Treatment." *Social Science and Medicine* 51: 1231-1240.

Levin (2001): "Gendering the Market: Temporality, Work, and Gender on a National Futures Exchange." *Work and Occupations* 28: 112-130.

Glucksman (1998): "'What a Difference a Day Makes': A Theoretical and Historical Exploration of Temporality and Gender." *Sociology* 32: 239-258.

If you have time:

Golander (1995): "Rituals of Temporality: The Social Construction of Time in a Nursing Ward." *Journal of Aging Studies* 9:119-135.

Hassars (1989): "A Qualitative Paradigm for Working-Time." *International Social Science Journal* 41: 93-104.

Week 7 (10/18). The temporal organization of interaction

Hardesty (1982): "Ethnomethodology and Symbolic Interactionism: A Critical Comparison of Temporal Orientations." *Symbolic Interaction* 5:127-137.

Reese and Katovich (1989): "Untimely Acts: Extending the Interactionist Conception of Deviance." *Sociological Quarterly* 30: 159-184.

Goodwin and Heritage (1990): "Conversation Analysis." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 19: 283-307.

Whalen and Zimmerman (1987): "Sequential and Institutional Contexts in Calls for Help." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 50: 172-185.

Clayman (1989): "The Production of Punctuality: Social Interaction, Temporal Organization, and Social Structure." *AJS* 95: 659-91.

Gibson (2000): "Seizing the Moment: The Problem of Conversational Agency." *Sociological Theory* 18:3.

Week 8. (10/25). Temporal contingency in action

Wagner-Pacifici, Robin (2000): *Theorizing the Standoff: Contingency in Action*.
Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press

III. TIME IN SOCIAL EXPLANATION

Week 9 (11/1). Time and historical causality

Tilly (1995): "To Explain Political Processes." *AJS* 100:1594-1610.

Griffen (1992): "Temporality, Events, and Explanation in Historical Sociology: An Introduction." *Sociological Methods & Research*, 20: 403-427.

Aminzade (1992): "Historical Sociology and Time." *Sociological Methods and Research* 20:456-480.

Haydu (1998): "Making Use of the Past: Time Periods and Cases to Compare and as Sequences of Problem Solving." *AJS* 104:339-71.

Schmitter and Santiso (1998): "Three Temporal Dimensions to the Consolidation of Democracy." *International Political Science Review* 19: 69-93.

Lauer (1973): "Temporality and Social Change: The Case of 19th Century China and Japan." *Sociological Quarterly* 14: 451-464.

If you have time:

Tilly (1994): "The Time of States." *Social Research* 61: 269-295.

Quadagno and Knapp (1992): "Have Historical Sociologists Forsaken Theory? Thoughts on the History/Theory Relationship." *Sociological Methods & Research* 20: 481-507.

Paige (1999): "Conjuncture, Comparison, and Conditional Theory in Macrosocial Inquiry." *AJS* 105: 781-800.

Gross (1985): "Temporality and the Modern State." *Theory and Society* 14:53-82.

Week 10 (11/8). Time series analysis

Olzak (1989): "Analysis of Events in the Study of Collective Action." *Annual Review of Sociology* 15:119-41.

McAdam (1983): "Tactical Innovation and the Pace of Insurgency." *ASR* 48: 735-754.

Koopmans (1993): "The Dynamics of Protest Waves: West Germany, 1965-1989." *ASR* 58:637-658.

Tilly (1994): "Reflections on Popular Contention in Great Britain, 1758-1834." *CSSC Working Paper*.

Hannon and Freeman (1987): "The Ecology of Organizational Founding: American Labor Unions, 1836-1985." *AJS* 92: 910-43.

Isaac and Griffen (1989): "Ahistoricism in Time-Series Analyses of Historical Process: Critique, Redirection, and Illustrations from U.S. Labor History." *ASR* 54:873-890.

If you have time:

Koopman and Rucht (1999): "Protest Event Analysis: Where To Now?" *Mobilization* 4: 123-130. (and other articles in this special issue of *Mobilization*).

Week 11 (11/15). Event history analysis

Hannan and Tuma (1979): "Methods for Temporal Analysis." *Annual Review of Sociology* 5:303-328.

Tuma, Hannan, and Groenevald (1979): "Dynamic Analysis of Event Histories." *AJS* 84: 820-854. *NOTE: JUST SKIM THIS ARTICLE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE MATH*

Hannan and Carroll (1981): "Dynamics of Formal Political Structure: An Event-History Analysis." *ASR* 46: 19-35.

Yamaguchi and Kandel (1985): "On the Resolution of Role Incompatibility: A Life History Analysis of Family Roles and Marijuana Use." *AJS* 90: 1284-1325.

Minkoff (1999): "Bending with the Wind: Strategic Change and Adaptation by Women's and Racial Minority Organizations." *AJS* 104: 1666-1703.

Chaves (1996): "Ordaining Women: The Diffusion of an Organizational Innovation." *AJS* 101: 840-873.

If you have time:

Yamaguchi and Ferguson (1995): "The Stopping and Spacing of Childbirths and Their Birth-History Predictors: Rational Choice Theory and Event History Analysis." *ASR* 60: 272-298.

Sutton, Dobbin, Meyer, and Scott (1994): "The Legalization of the Workplace." *AJS* 99: 944-971.

McCammon, Cambell, Granberg, and Mowery (2001): "How Movements Win: Gendered Opportunity Structures and U.S. Women's Suffrage Movements, 1866-1919." *ASR* 66:49-70.

NO CLASS 11/22: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Week 12 (11/29). Mobility and careers

Rosenfeld (1992): "Job mobility and Career Processes." *Annual Review of Sociology* 18: 39-61.

Chase (1991): "Vacancy Chains." *Annual Review of Sociology* 17: 133-54.

Haveman and Cohen (1994): "The Ecological Dynamics of Careers: The Impact of Organizational Founding, Dissolution, and Merger on Job Mobility." *AJS* 100: 104-52.

Long, Allison, and McGinnis (1993): "Rank Advancement in Academic Careers: Sex Differences and the Effects of Productivity." *ASR* 58: 703-722.

Faulkner (1987): "Short-Term Projects and Emergent Careers: Evidence from Hollywood." *AJS* 92: 879-909.

Week 13 (12/6). Sequence analysis and optimal matching techniques

- Abbott (1995): "Sequence Analysis: New Methods for Old Ideas." *Annual Review of Sociology* 21: 93-113.
- Abbot and Hrycak (1990): "Measuring Resemblance in Sequence Data: An Optimal Matching Analysis of Musicians' Careers." *AJS* 96: 144-85.
- Stovel, Savage, and Bearman (1996): "Ascription into Achievement: Models of Career Systems at Lloyds Bank, 1890-1970." *AJS* 102: 358-399.
- Blair-Loy (1999): "Career Patterns of Executive Women in Finance: An Optimal Matching Analysis." *AJS* 104: 1346-97.
- Han and Moen (1999): "Clocking Out: Temporal Patterning of Retirement." *AJS* 191-236.

Week 14 (12/13). Narrative positivism and events

- Abbott (1992): "From Causes to Events: Notes on Narrative Positivism." *Sociological Methods & Research* 20: 428-455
- Abbott (1997): "On the Concept of Turning Points." *Comparative Social Research* 16: 85-105.
- Sewell (1996): "Historical Events as Transformations of Structures: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille." *Theory & Society* 25: 841-881.
- Griffen (1993): "Narrative, Event-Structure Analysis, and Causal Interpretation in Historical Sociology." *AJS* 98: 1094-1133.
- Bearman and Stovel (2000): "Becoming a Nazi: A Model for Narrative Networks." *Poetics* 27: 69-90.
- Franzosi (1997): "Mobilization and Countermobilization Processes: From the 'Red years' to the 'Black Years' (1921-22) in Italy. A New Methodological Approach to the Study of Narrative Data." *Theory and Society* 26: 275-305.

If you have time:

- Franzosi (1998): Narrative Analysis – Or Why (And How) Sociologists Should be Interested in Narrative." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24: 517-54.
- Bearman, Faris, and Moody (1999): "Blocking the Future." *Social Science Research* 23: 501-533