

歷史社會學

HISTORICAL SOCIOLOGY

SOC 560000

SEPTEMBER 2011
NATIONAL TSING-HUA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY

TUESDAY, 6:30—9:30 PM

CLASSROOM: 人文社會學院 C306

TELEPHONE: 03-5715131*34523

OFFICE HOURS: THU 1-2 PM

OFFICE: C629

姚人多 JEN-TO YAO

jtyao@mx.nthu.edu.tw

OVERVIEW

This is a graduate reading and seminar on historical sociology for Master and Doctoral degree. This is not just a “course”. Rather, I expect that it is a solid “training” for those who want to be historical sociologists in the coming future. In order to achieve that, not only are we going to discuss readings—most of which are important and influential texts in the field of historical sociology—but to do a set of exercises/homework, which are specially designed to enable and enhance your knowledge and skills in the field of historical sociology. As mainly a methodological course, the readings of this year will be under the following categories: (1) the relationship between history and sociology; (2) the historical development of historical sociology; (3) the methodological debates of historical sociology; (4) different approaches to do historical sociology; and (5) the classics of historical sociology. Based upon what is mentioned above, the course will be roughly divided into four parts. Throughout the term, I expect students to have the following ability.

- “Who” of historical sociology: the ability in identifying important historical sociologists and their individual contributions.
- “History” of historical sociology: historical development and the general picture of the field called historical sociology.
- “What” are the hottest debates in historical sociology: the ability in elaborating important issues in historical sociology.
- “How” to do historical sociology: the necessary skills or ‘tricks’ of historical sociologists.
- Finding out the main arguments of the classics of historical sociology.
- Finally, the ability in raising ‘historical’ questions in your sociology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. PARTICIPATION (5%)

Students are expected to attend class regularly and ACTIVELY. They must read critically all the readings before each class. Each student is expected to do oral presentation and lead the class discussion once or twice in this term, depending on the actual number of students in the class.

2. EXERCISES (45%)

There are three exercises in this term. All of them are designed to enhance your sense and ability to do research of historical sociology.

Exercise one: Is the past really so?

Due in class on the 2nd Week

“Historical Sociology”, wrote Denise Smith, “is the study of the past to find out how societies work and change’. Very often (but not always), a historical sociology study begins with a single question: is the past really so? For example, as Frances Wood (reading of the first week) does in her study on Marco Polo, she just does not believe that Marco Polo really made his trip to China. Driven by the fundamental question, she begins her search on the evidence of Marco Polo’s “absence”. Whether her argument is convinced enough is not the main issue here. The point is that, Wood shows us an encouraging example to question a ‘discourse’ or phenomenon which is considered ‘true’ and accepted as a “fact” by almost everyone. History begins from a “period”. This is the spirit we are going to learn in the way to become a historical sociologist. So, choose a historical ‘fact’ that puzzles you or even “disgusts” you most and write it down. Remember, you write it down only because you want to challenge it. Therefore, EXERCISE ONE must contain

- the historical fact,
- the reason why you disbelieve,
- some initial evidence that encourages you to reverse the “fact”, and
- be no longer than 1,000 Chinese characters.

Exercise two: Study on a primary document

Due in the class on the 7th week

We the sociologists have long been criticized by the historians “lazy” in finding out the “primary document”. An unpleasant “division of labour” between sociologists and historians has been there for quite a while: historians responsible for the “fact” while the sociologists for the “theory”, that is to say, we “use” history to “construct” theory. This division of labour has to be put into question now. The purpose of this exercise is to give you some experience and “taste” of reading “primary documents”, which if you like can be called 史料 in Chinese.

Imagine that you are invited by an international conference organizer to write an article about the people’s reaction and resistance when they first encountered with

modern state and capitalism in Taiwan. The primary document we are going to use in this term is 警察沿革誌。 By any standard, this is an amazing collection of policing document in the period of Japanese colonialism in Taiwan. Please read the books carefully, and identify and write down those stories suitable for the topic of the conference paper. Therefore EXERCISE TWO must include

- the stories documented in the books,
- in what sense these stories can be seen as reaction or resistance against modern state and capitalism.

Exercise three: Review of a historical paper

Due in the class on the 13th week

Some sociologists are “historical-blind”, just as some historians are “non-sociological”. As Dennis Smith argues, “empirically, they neglect the way processes and structures vary between societies; conceptually, they consider neither the general properties of processes and structures, nor their relationships to acts and events”. Imagine that you are invited by a very sociology-minded journal to review a paper written by a historian. This journal has the reputation of “sociology fundamentalist” and therefore treats historians quite badly. Please choose a paper from the journal 臺灣史研究 (website: http://www.ith.sinica.edu.tw/quarterly_06_list.php) and write a harsh review of it. So EXERCISE THREE should

- discuss from the perspective of sociology what has been neglected by the author,
- elaborate the importance of social structure or sociological facts, and
- suggest possible improvements of the paper, including the theoretical meaning in sociology.

3. RESEARCH PRESENTATION AND TERM PAPER (50%)

DUE ON 12 FEBRUARY 2012

Research presentation will be held on the final date of the term. Each student has 15 minutes to make a clear but short speech about his/her topic and initial findings.

And finally a term paper (essay) in the form of research proposal that contains clear ‘historical sense’ in sociology is required. On your term paper, I expect to find

- a clear problematic that contains interesting historical sense,
- a basic literature review,
- the resource of primary and secondary documents,
- possible theoretical meaning in sociology
- no longer than 20,000 Chinese characters.

You are more than welcome to discuss with me your research proposal or any sort of problem you meet in the class during my office hours. Please do e-mail me in advance to arrange the meeting.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

(Note: Articles from *AJS*, *BJS*, *Theory and Society*, *Past & Present*, *Social Forces*, and *Comparative Studies in Society and History* could all be downloaded from the JESTOR system provided by Tsing-Hua University Library.)

■ 1st week (13 September)

Topic: General Introduction

Frances Wood. 1996. *Did Marco Polo Go to China?*. Boulder, Colo: Westview Press. (Chapter 8)

Part 1: Basic issues and general history of the field called “historical sociology”

■ 2nd week (20 September)

Topic: The Relation between History and Sociology

Larry J. Griffin. 1995. “How Is Sociology Informed by History?”. *Social Forces*, Vol. 73, No. 4 (Jun., 1995), pp. 1245-1254

A. D. Smith. 1978. “The Diffusion of Nationalism: Some Historical and Sociological Perspectives”. *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 29, No. 2, pp. 234-248

■ 3rd week (27 September)

Topic: The History of Historical Sociology

Dennis Smith. 1991. *The Rise of Historical Sociology*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Part 2: Important epistemological and methodological debates within historical sociology

■ 4th week (4 October)

Topic: The Debate of “The Revival of Narrative” in *Past & Present*

Lawrence Stone. 1979. “The Revival of Narrative: Reflections on a New Old History”, *Past & Present*, No. 85 (Nov., 1979), pp. 3-24

E. J. Hobsbawm. 1980. “The Revival of Narrative: Some Comments”, *Past & Present*, No. 86 (Feb., 1980), pp. 3-8

Philip Abrams. 1980. “History, Sociology, Historical Sociology”, *Past & Present*, No. 87 (May. 1980), pp. 3-16

Gareth Stedman Jones. 1980. “From Historical Sociology to Theoretical History”, *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 27, No. 3, pp. 295-305.

■ 5th week (11 October)

Topic: The Debate of Goldthorpe’s “the Use of History in Sociology” in *BJS*

John H. Goldthorpe. 1991. “The Uses of History in Sociology: Reflections on Some Recent Tendencies”, *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 42, No. 2 (Jun 1991), pp.

211-230.

- Joseph M. Bryant. 1994. "Evidence and Explanation in History and Sociology: Critical Reflections on Goldthorpe's Critique of Historical Sociology", *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (Mar., 1994), pp. 3-19
- Nicky Hart. 1994. "John Goldthorpe and the Relics of Sociology". *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (Mar., 1994), pp. 21-30
- Nicos Mouzelis. 1994. "In Defence of 'Grand' Historical Sociology", *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (Mar., 1994), pp. 31-36.
- Michael Mann. 1994. "In Praise of Macro-Sociology: A Reply to Goldthorpe", *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (Mar., 1994), pp. 37-54.
- John H. Goldthorpe. 1994. "The Uses of History in Sociology: A Reply", *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (Mar., 1994), pp.55-77.

■ 6th week (18 October)

Topic: The Debate of "Rational Choice Theory" in AJS

- Edgar Kiser and Michael Hechter. 1991. "The Role of General Theory in Comparative-Historical Sociology". *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 97, No. 1 (Jul., 1991), pp. 1-30
- Margaret R. Somers. 1998. "We're No Angels: Realism, Rational Choice, and Relationality in Social Science". *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 104, No. 3 (Nov., 1998), pp. 722-784.
- Jack A. Goldstone. 1998. "Initial Conditions, General Laws, Path Dependence, and Explanation in Historical Sociology", *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 104, No. 3 (Nov., 1998), pp. 829-845.
- Craig Calhoun. 1998. "Explanation in Historical Sociology: Narrative, General Theory, and Historically Specific Theory". *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 104, No. 3 (Nov., 1998), pp. 846-871.
- Edgar Kiser and Michael Hechter. 1998. "The Debate on Historical Sociology: Rational Choice Theory and Its Critics." *American Journal of Sociology* 104:722-84.

Part 3: Different ways to do historical sociology

■ 7th week (25 October)

Topic: "Small-N" Comparative Historical Sociology

- Theda Skocpol and Margaret Somers. 1980. "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry". *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Apr., 1980), pp. 174-197
- Victoria E. Bonnell. 1980. "The Use of Theory, Concepts and Comparison in Historical Sociology", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 22, No.2 (Apr., 1980), pp. 156-173.
- Rebecca Jean Emigh. 1997. "The Power of Negative Thinking: The Use of Negative Case Methodology in the Development of Sociological Theory". *Theory and*

Society, Vol. 26, No. 5 (Oct., 1997), pp. 649-684

■ 8th week (1 November)

Topic: Temporality, Narrative and Historical Events

William H. Sewell, Jr. 1996. "Historical Events as Transformations of Structures: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille", *Theory and Society*, Vol. 25, No. 6 (Dec., 1996), pp. 841-881

William H. Sewell, Jr. 1990. "Three Temporalities: Toward a Sociology of the Event", paper presented at a conference on 'The Historic Turn in the Human Sciences' at the University of Michigan, October 1990.

Peter Abell. 2004. "Narrative Explanation: An Alternative to Variable-Centered Explanation?", *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 30 (2004), pp. 287-310

Larry J. Griffin. 1993. "Narrative, Event-Structure Analysis, and Causal Interpretation in Historical Sociology," *American Journal of Sociology* 98: 1094-1133.

■ 9th week (8 November) Reading Week

■ 10th week (15 November)

Topic: Biography and Historical Sociology

Barbara Laslett. 1991. "Biography as Historical Sociology: The Case of William Fielding Ogburn". *Theory and Society*, Vol. 20, No. 4 (Aug., 1991), pp. 511-538

Brian Elliott. 1990. 'Biography, Family History and the Analysis of Social Change', in Stephen Kendrick, Pat Straw and David McCrone edited, *Interpreting the Past, Understanding the Present*. New York: St. Martin's Press, pp. 59-82

江南（劉宜良） 2007。（1997）蔣經國傳，台北：前衛

■ 11th week (22 November)

Topic: The History of Ideas

John Dunn. 1968. "The Identity of the History of Ideas", *Philosophy*, Vol. 43, No. 164, pp. 85-104

Quentin Skinner. 1969. "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas", *History and Theory*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 3-53

William H. Sewell Jr. 1979. "Corporations Republicaines: The Revolutionary Idiom of Parisian Workers in 1848". *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Apr., 1979), pp. 195-203

Part 4: Selected readings of the classics of historical sociology

■ 12th week (29 November)

Topic: E. P. Thompson (I)

E P. Thompson. 1966. *The Making of the English Working Class*. London: Vintage (中文版：英國工人階級的形成。台北：麥田)

■ 13th week (6 December)

Topic: E. P. Thompson (II)

E P. Thompson. 1966. *The Making of the English Working Class*. London: Vintage (中文版：英國工人階級的形成。台北：麥田)

■ 14th week (13 December)

Topic: Barrington Moore Jr. (I)

Barrington Moore Jr. 1966. *Social origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Middlesex: Penguins Books. (中文版：民主與獨裁的社會起源。)

■ 15th week (20 December)

Topic: Barrington Moore Jr. (II)

Barrington Moore Jr. 1966. *Social origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Middlesex: Penguins Books. (中文版：民主與獨裁的社會起源。)

■ 16th week (27 December)

Topic: Charles Tilly (I)

Charles Tilly. 1986. *The Contentious French: Four centuries of Popular Struggle*. Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press (中文版：法國人民抗爭史，台北：麥田)

■ 17th week (3 January)

Topic: Charles Tilly (II)

Charles Tilly. 1986. *The Contentious French: Four centuries of Popular Struggle*. Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press (中文版：法國人民抗爭史，台北：麥田)

■ 18th week (10 January)

Research Proposal Presentation + Food and Drinks