

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: Sociology of Knowledge

Level and status: 4 credit points, M.A. elective seminar

Lecturer: Prof Uri Ram

Course description:

The course addresses the social, cultural and political context of knowledge and science production, circulation and application. It includes aspects of sociology of science and sociology of intellectuals and emphasis is put on the "social sciences". Various approaches are studied -- historical (German), functionalist and constructivist (Anglo-American), deconstructivist (French) and cases and controversies are examined.

Course requirements: students are required to be present in class meetings, read and prepare the material and the assignments (10% of grade), offer class presentations (10%), present paper proposal and submit on time the final written work.

Grade: final written work (80% of grade)

Schedule and reading list:

1. The basic questions of knowledge and science in Marx, Weber & Durkheim
2. Central Europe between the wars (Lucaks, Mannhein, Popper, Horkeimer and Adorno)
3. The 1950s to the 1970s in Anglo-American sociology (Merton's sociology of science, Kuhn's paradigms, Barnes and Bloor "strong program")
4. The post-1960s relativism: post-structuralist and feminist approaches to knowledge and science: M. Foucault, S. Harding, E. Said.
5. Recent approaches: P. Bourdieu, J. Habermas, B. Latour, D. Haraway
6. Exemplary recent controversies

Selections from the following list are specified in class:

- Adorno, Theodor. 1982. "The Sociology of Knowledge and Its Consciousness." Pp. 452-465 in *The Essential Frankfurt School*, edited by Andrew Arato and Mike Gebhart. New York: Continuum.
- Adorno, Theodor et al. (Ed.). 1969. *The Positivist Dispute in German Sociology*. London: Hienemann.
- Anderson, R.J., John A. Hughes and W.W. Sharrock. 1986. *Philosophy and the Human Sciences*. New York: B & B.
- Appiah, K.A. 1993. "Europe Upside Down: Fallacies of the New Afrocentrism." *Times Literary Supplement* :24-25.
- Arato, Andrew and Mike Gebhardt. 1982. "A Critique of Methodology." Pp. 371-406 in *The Essential Frankfurt School Reader*, edited by Andrew and Mike Gebhardt Arato. New York: Continuum.
- Aronowitz, Stanley. 1988. *Science as Power: Discourse and Ideology in Modern Society*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

- Barrow, Clyde W. 1987. "Intellectuals in Contemporary Social Theory: A Radical Critique." *Sociological Inquiry* 57:415-429.
- Bernal, M. 1987. *Black Athena: the Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization, Vol.I: The Fabrication of Ancient Greece 1787-1987*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
- Bernstein, Richard. 1978. *The Restructuring of Social and Political Theory*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Binsbergen, Wim M.J. van (Ed.). 1997. *Black Athena: Ten Years Later*.
- Bloor, David. 1982. "Durkheim and Mauss Revisited: Classification and the Sociology of Knowledge." *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science* 13:267-297.
- Bloor, David. 1991(1976). "Knowledge and Social Imagery: a Case Study." Pp. 55-83 in *Knowledge and Social imagery*, edited by D. Bloor: Chicago.
- Boggs, Carl. 1993. *Intellectuals and the Crisis of Modernity*. New York: SUNY Press.
- Boggs, Carl. 2000. "Intellectuals." Pp. 296-311 in *Understanding Contemporary Society*, edited by Abigail Halcli & Frank Webster Gary Browning.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1975. "The Specificity of the Scientific Field and the Social Conditions of the Progress of Reason." *Social Science Information* 14:19-47.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1977. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. London: Cambridge UP.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1988. *Homo Academicus*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1990. "The Intellectual Field: a World Apart." Pp. 140-149 in *In Other Words*, edited by P. Bourdieu: Stanford UP.
- Brown, R.H. and J.D. Schubert (Ed.). 1999. *Knowledge and Power in Higher Education [Selection]*. New York: Teachers College Press.
- Bryant, Christopher G.A. 1985a. "Disputes in Germany and Austria about Methods and Values in the Social Sciences: Part I From the Historical Economists to Weber." Pp. 57-108 in *Positivism in Social Theory and Research*, edited by C. Bryant. New York: St. Martin's.
- Bryant, Christopher G.A. 1985b. "Disputes in Germany and Austria about Methods and Values in the Social Sciences: Part II The Vienna Circle and the Frankfurt School." Pp. 109-132 in *C. Bryant*. New York: St. Martin's.
- Bryant, Christopher G.A. 1985c. "The French Tradition of Positivism: From Positive Philosophy to Positive Polity." Pp. 11-56 in *Positivism in Social Theory and Research*, edited by C. Bryant. New York: St. Martin's.
- Burke, Peter. 2000. *A Social History of Knowledge*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Cannavo, Leonardo. 1997. "Sociological Models of Scientific Knowledge." *International Sociology* 12:475-496.
- Clawson, Dan. 1998. *Required Reading: Sociology's Most Influential Books*. Amherst. University of Massachusetts
- Clifford, James and George E. Marcus (ed.). 1986. *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Cohen, Bernard S. 1996. *Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge: The British in India*. Princeton NJ: Princeton UP.
- Colfax, J. David and Jack L. Roach (eds.). 1971. *Radical Sociology*. NY: Basic Books.
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 1990. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge.

- Dallmayer, F.R. and T.A.McCarthy (Ed.). 1977. *Understanding Social Inquiry*: University of Notre Dame Press.
- Denis, M. Rutledge (Ed.). 1997. *The Black Intellectuals: Research in Race and Ethnic Relations, Vol. 10*.
- Diesing, Paul. 1991. *How Does Social Science Work?* Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1972. "Sociology of Knowledge." Pp. 250-269 in *Selected Writings*, edited by A. Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Durkheim, Emile and Marcel Mauss. 1963. *Primitive Classification*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Fischer, Claude S. (Ed.). 1996. *Inequality by Design: Cracking the Bell Curve Myth*. Princeton NJ: Princeton UP.
- Forman, P. 1971. "Weimar Culture, Causality and Quantum Theory, 1918-1927." in *Historical Studies in the Physical Sciences, No.3 [R. McCormach ed.]*, edited by McCormash R. Philadelphia, Penn: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Foucault, Michel. 1970. *The Order of Things*. New York: Pantheon Books.
- Foucault, Michel. 1972. *The Archeology of Knowledge*. New York: Pantheon Books [Selection: "Science and Knowledge", pp. 178-195].
- Foucault, Michel. 1980. "Two Lectures." Pp. 78-108 in *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writing*, edited by Colin Gordon. New York: Pantheon Books.
- Foucault, Michel. 1980(1984). "Truth and Power [interview]." Pp. 109-133 in *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and other Writings, 1972-1977, Michel Foucault*, edited by Coiln Gordon. New York: Pantheon Books.
- Friedrichs, Robert W. 1970. *Sociology of Sociology*. NY: Free Press.
- Fuller, Steven. 2000. *Science*. Mennesota UP.
- Fullinwider, Robert K. 1991. "Multicultural Education: Concepts, Policies, and Controversies." Pp. 3-22 in *Public Education in a Multicultural Society*, edited by Robert K. Fullinwider: Cambridge UP.
- Geelan, David R. 1997. "Epoistemological Anarchy and the Many Forms of Constructivism." *Science Education* No. 6.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1983. "Blurred Genres: The Refiguration of of Social Thought." Pp. 18-35 in *Local Knowledge*, edited by Clifford Geertz.
- Geras, Norman. 1971. "Essence and Appearance: Aspects of Fetishism in Marx's Capital." *New Left Review* .
- Gertz, Clifford. 2000 (2nd Ed.). *Local Knowledge*. New York: Basic Books.
- Gieryn, Thomas F. 1982. "Durkheim's Sociology of Scientific Knowledge." *Journal of the History of the Beahavioral Sciences* 18:107-129.
- Gouldner, Alvin. 1982.*The Two Marxisms: Contradictions and Anomalies in the Development of Theory*. Oxford UP.
- Gouldner, Alvin. 1970. *The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology*. NY: Basic Books.
- Gutting, Gary (Ed.). 1980. *Paradigms and Revolutions: Appraisals and Applications of Thomas Kuhn`s Philosophy of Science*: University of Notre Dame Press.
- Gross, Paul and Norman Levitt. 1994. *Higher Superstition: The Academic Left and Its Quarrles wirh Science*. Johns Hopkins UP.

- Habermas, Jurgen. 1971. "Knowledge and Human Interests: A General Perspective." Pp. 301-317 in *Knowledge and Human Interests*, edited by J. Habermas. New York: Beacon Press.
- Halliday, Terrence & Morris Janowitz (Ed.). 1992. *Sociology and its Publics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Harding, Sandra. 1986. *The Science Question in Feminism*. Ithaca: Cornell University press.
- Harding, Sandra. 1993b. "Rethinking Standpoint Epistemology: 'What is Strong Objectivity'?" In *Feminist Epistemologies*, edited by Linda Alkoff and Elizabeth Potter. New York: Routledge.
- Harding, Sadndra. 1998. *Is Science Multicultural?:* Indiana UP.
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- Hesse, J. David. 1997. *Science Studies*. New York: NYUP.
- Hessen, Boris. 1971 [1932]. *The Social and Economic Roots of Newton's Principia*. NY: Howard Fertig.
- Herenstein, Richard and Charles Murray. 1994. *The Bell Curve: Intellegence and Class Structure in American Life [Selection]*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Hollis, Martin & Steven Lukes, eds. 1982. *Rationality and Relativism*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
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- Lamont, Michele. 1987. "The Influence of Intellectuals on the Production of Culture in France and the United States Since WWII." in *The Role of Intellectuals in Liberal Democracies*, edited by Alvin Gagnon. New York: Praeger.
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