

## DANIEL LITTLE

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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Philosophy, Harvard University, 1977  
A.B. Philosophy, University of Illinois, Urbana, 1971 (High Honors)  
B.S. Mathematics, University of Illinois, Urbana, 1971 (Highest Honors)

### **PROFESSIONAL HISTORY**

University of Michigan-Dearborn (Chancellor and Professor of Philosophy, 2000-cont.)  
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Adjunct Professor of Sociology, 2007-cont.)  
Bucknell University (Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Philosophy, 1996-2000)  
Colgate University (Associate Dean of the Faculty, 1993-1996)  
Colgate University (Professor of Philosophy, 1992-96; Associate Professor, 1985-92; Assistant Professor, 1979-85)  
Harvard University Center for International Affairs (Visiting Scholar, 1989-1991; Associate, 1991-1995)  
Wellesley College (Visiting Associate Professor, 1985-87)  
University of Wisconsin-Parkside (Assistant Professor, 1976-79)

### **RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

1992 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Book Award for *Varieties of Social Explanation*  
Faculty Associate, Inter-University Consortium for Social and Political Research, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 2000-cont.  
Faculty Associate, Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, 2004-cont.  
Associate, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 1991-95  
Social Science Research Council/MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in International Peace and Security, 1989-91  
Visiting Scholar, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 1989-91  
National Science Foundation Research Grant, 1987  
Colgate University Sabbatical Leave, 1986-87  
Colgate University Junior Faculty Leave, 1982  
Harvard University Teaching Fellowships, 1973-76  
Woodrow Wilson Graduate Fellowship, 1971-72  
Phi Beta Kappa, 1969

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE**

Philosophy of the social sciences; international ethics; philosophy of economics; rational choice theory  
Social and political philosophy; contemporary moral theory; Asian studies

### **BOOKS** (8)

*New Contributions to the Philosophy of History* (Springer, Methodos Series, forthcoming 2010)  
*The Future of Diversity: Academic Leaders Reflect on American Higher Education*, edited by Daniel Little and Satya Mohanty (Palgrave, 2010)  
*The Paradox of Wealth and Poverty: Mapping the Ethical Dilemmas of Global Development* (Westview Press, 2003)  
*Microfoundations, Method, and Causation: Essays in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences* (Transaction Publishers, 1998)

*On The Reliability of Economic Models: Essays in the Philosophy of Economics*, edited (Kluwer Academic Publishing, 1995)  
*Varieties of Social Explanation: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Science* (Westview Press, 1991)  
*Understanding Peasant China: Case Studies in the Philosophy of Social Science* (Yale University Press, 1989; revised and expanded Chinese edition, Jiangsu People's Publication House, 2008)  
*The Scientific Marx* (University of Minnesota Press, 1986)

Academic blog: [www.understandingsociety.blogspot.com](http://www.understandingsociety.blogspot.com) (since November 2007)

### **EDITORIAL**

Book Review Editor for works on comparative/transnational themes, *Journal of Asian Studies* (2009-cont.)  
Guest editor, Special volume, "Philosophical Marxism," *Topoi* (1996)  
Guest editor, Symposium, "New Perspectives on the Chinese Rural Economy," *Republican China* (1992)

### **JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS** (37)

"Causal Mechanisms in the Social Realm," *Causality in the Sciences*, Federica Russo (ed.) (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)  
"Methodological Individualism," *Encyclopedia of Political Theory* (forthcoming)  
"Action in History and Social Science," *A Companion to the Philosophy of Action*, Constantine Sandis and Tim O'Connor, eds. (Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming)  
"Political Power and Social Class," *SAGE Handbook of Philosophy of Social Science*. Jesús Zamora and Ian Jarvie, eds. (forthcoming)  
"Philosophy of Sociology," *Philosophy of the Special Sciences*. Fritz Allhoff, ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)  
"Institutions, Inequality and Well-being: Distributive Determinants of Rural Development," *Capabilities, Power, and Institutions: Toward a More Critical Development Ethics*. Stephen Esquith, ed. (Penn State Press, 2010)  
"The Heterogeneous Social," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences: Philosophical Theory and Scientific Practice*. Chrysostomos Mantzavinos, ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2009)  
"Autobiographical Essay," *The Philosophy of the Social Sciences: 5 Questions*. Christoph Schmidt-Petri and Diego Rios, eds. (Vince Press, 2008)  
"Eurasian Comparisons," *Social Science History* (2008)  
"Marxism and Method," *Twentieth-Century Marxism: A Global Introduction*, edited by Howard Chados and David Walker (Routledge, 2007)  
"Levels of the Social," *The Philosophy of Anthropology and Sociology*, edited by Mark Risjord and Stephen Turner (Elsevier Science, 2006)  
"Explaining Large-Scale Historical Change," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* (2000)  
"Multiple Goals in the Liberal Arts: A Reply to Joseph Wagner," *Interchange* (1998)  
"Recent Developments in Philosophical Marxism," *Topoi* (1996)  
"Causal Explanation in the Social Sciences," *Southern Journal of Philosophy* (Supplement, 1995)  
"Is Anthropology a Science?," *Anthropology Newsletter* (1995)  
"Current Issues in the Epistemology of Economics" in *On the Reliability of Economic Models*, edited by D. Little (Kluwer Academic Publishing, 1995)  
"On the Reliability of CGE Economic Models" in *On the Reliability of Economic Models*, edited by D. Little (Kluwer Academic Publishing, 1995)  
"Microfoundations of Marxism" in *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, edited by Michael Martin and Lee McIntyre (MIT Press, 1994)  
"Development Traps in Traditional and Modern China" in *Culture, Politics, and Economic Growth: Experiences of East Asia*, edited by Richard Harvey Brown (Studies in Third World Societies, 1993)  
"Evidence and Objectivity in the Social Sciences," *Social Research* 60:2 (1993)  
"On the Scope and Limits of Generalizations in the Social Sciences," *Synthese* 97:2 (1993)  
"Jon Elster" in *New Horizons in Economic Thought: Appraisals of Leading Economists*, edited by Warren Samuels (Edward Elgar Publishing, 1992)  
"New Perspectives on the Chinese Rural Economy," *Republican China* (1992)  
"Rational-Choice Models and Asian Studies," *Journal of Asian Studies* 50 (1991)  
"Socialist Morality: Towards a Political Philosophy for Democratic Socialism" *Social Philosophy & Policy* 6 (1989); also in *Socialism*, edited by Ellen Frankel Paul (Basil Blackwell, 1989)

- “Marxism and Popular Politics: The Microfoundations of Class Struggle,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* Supplementary Volume 15 (1989)
- “Testing the Testers: A Reply to Barbara Sands and Ramon Myers' Critique of G. William Skinner's Regional Systems Approach to China” (coauthored with Joseph Esherick), *Journal of Asian Studies* 48 (1989)
- “Collective Action and the Traditional Village,” *Journal of Agricultural Ethics* 1 (1988)
- “Dialectics and Science in Marx's *Capital*,” *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 17 (1987)
- “The Scientific Standing of *Capital*,” *Review of Radical Political Economics* 17 (1986)
- “Historical Materialism and *Capital*,” *Topoi* 5 (1986)
- “Does Marx Have a Theory of Capitalism?,” *The Social Science Journal* 22 (1985)
- “Reflective Equilibrium and Justification,” *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 22 (1984)
- “Abstraction and Theory: Marx's Method for Social Science,” *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 20 (1982)
- “Rationality, Ideology, and Morality in Marx's Social Theory,” *Social Praxis* 8 (1981)
- “Countervailing Tendencies and Falsifiability in *Capital*,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 42 (1981)

#### **ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES (22)**

- “The Chinese Peasant, 1800-1900,” *Encyclopedia of Modern China* (forthcoming)
- “The Chinese Peasant and the Chinese Revolution,” *Encyclopedia of Modern China* (forthcoming)
- “Development,” “Marxism,” “False Consciousness,” *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* second edition (Macmillan, forthcoming)
- “Philosophy of History,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2007)
- “Marxism and the Status of Women,” *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender* (forthcoming)
- “Philosophy of Economics,” *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia* (Routledge, 2005)
- “Causal Mechanisms,” “Verification,” “Explanation,” “Gini coefficient,” “Inequality measurement,” “Counterfactual,” “Endogenous Variable,” and “Exogenous Variable” in *Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods*, edited by Michael Lewis-Beck, Alan Bryman, and Tim Futing Liao (Sage Publications, 2004)
- “Philosophy of the Social Sciences,” “Ethnography,” “Ethnology,” and “Ethnomethodology” in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, edited by Robert Audi (Cambridge University Press, 1995)

#### **PANELS ORGANIZED**

- “Book panel: The Chinese Cultural Revolution as History,” Social Science History Association, Long Beach, November 2009
- “The Historicity of Structure and Action,” Social Science History Association, Long Beach, November 2009
- “Higher Education and Socio-Cultural Change,” Social Science History Association, Long Beach, November 2009
- “Power and Social Change in China,” Social Science History Association, Miami, October 2008
- “Book session on CK Lee, *Against the Law*,” Social Science History Association, Miami, October 2008
- “Persistence and Change in Large Social Patterns,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, November 2007
- “Book Session: Kathleen Thelen, *How Institutions Evolve*,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, November 2007
- “New Approaches to the Philosophy of History,” Social Science History Association, Minneapolis, November 2006
- “Book Session: William Sewell, *Logics of History*,” Social Science History Association, Minneapolis, November 2006
- “Diversity and Excellence in American Higher Education: The Road Ahead,” Future of Minority Studies, Cornell University, June 2005
- “Causal Mechanisms in Historical Sociology,” Social Science History Association, Portland, OR, November 2005
- “Eurasian Comparisons,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, October 2004
- “Identities and Politics,” Social Science History Association, Baltimore, October 2003
- “Transportation, Migration, and Networks: Evolving Patterns of Historical Dynamics,” Social Science History Association, St. Louis, October 2002
- “Equity and Well-Being in Economic Development,” Society for Philosophy and Public Affairs, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, Spring 1996
- “Recent Perspectives on the Chinese Rural Economy, 1885-1935,” Association for Asian Studies (April 1992)

**INVITED PAPERS AND CONFERENCES (52)**

- “Agency, Identity, and Purposiveness,” Social Science History Association, Long Beach, November 2009
- “How High-Quality Regional Public Universities Enhance Opportunity,” Social Science History Association, Long Beach, November 2009
- “Philosophy of X: How Philosophy and the Messy Social World Intersect,” Keynote, Conference on Development Ethics, Michigan State University, April 2009
- “Thinking Social Ontology,” Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, Emory University, March 2009
- “The Mechanisms of Power: A Conceptual Analysis,” Social Science History Association, Miami, October 2008
- “Against the Law: Comments on CK Lee,” Social Science History Association, Miami, October 2008
- “Plasticity of the Social,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, November 2007
- “An Ontology of Change in Kathleen Thelen’s *How Institutions Evolve*,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, November 2007
- “The Heterogeneous Social: New Ontological Foundations for Social Explanation,” Conference on Explanation in the Social Sciences: Philosophical Theory and Scientific Practice, Herdecke, Germany, June 2007
- “Agents, Structures, and Social Contingency: New Thinking About the Foundations of the Social Sciences,” Tsinghua-DDM lecture, Tsinghua University, April 2007
- “Agents, Structures, and Social Contingency: New Thinking About the Foundations of the Social Sciences,” Northwest University (Xian, China), April 2007
- “Epistemological Issues in Economic History,” Peking University School of Economics, April 2007
- “New Developments in the Chinese Social Sciences,” Conference on Mapping Difference: Structures and Categories of Knowledge Production, Duke University, June 2006
- “New Approaches to the Philosophy of History,” Social Science History Association, Minneapolis, November 2006
- “Equity and Excellence from Three Points of Reference,” Diversity and Excellence in American Higher Education: The Road Ahead, Future of Minority Studies conference, June 2005
- “Rural Development and Inequality,” Conference on Ethics and Development: The Capability Approach in Practice, Michigan State University, April 2005
- “Causal Mechanisms in Comparative Sociology,” Social Science History Association, Portland, OR, November 2005
- “Kin, Class and Identity: Microfoundations for Social Identities,” School of Criticism & Theory, Cornell University, June 2004
- “Eurasian Historical Comparisons,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, October 2004
- “Replies, Author meets critics session on *The Paradox of Wealth and Poverty*,” American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, March 2004
- “Mentalités, Identities, and Practices,” Social Science History Association, Baltimore, October 2003
- “Transportation as a Large Historical Factor,” Social Science History Association, St. Louis, October 2002
- “Development Ethics: Justice, Well-being, and Poverty in the Developing World,” Center for Ethics and World Societies, Colgate University, February 2002
- “Towards a Global Civil Society,” International Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April, 2003; Consular Corps of Detroit, April, 2002; Keynote address, Association for Muslim Social Scientists, Dearborn, Michigan, October 2001; International Business Forum of Detroit, February, 2002
- “Causation in Meso-History,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, November 2001
- “Historical Concepts, Social Ontology, Macrohistory,” Social Science History Association, Pittsburgh, October, 2000
- “Explaining Largescale Historical Change,” Social Science History Association, Fort Worth, November, 1999; Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, St. Louis, April, 1999
- “Equality in International Ethics: Comments on Debra Satz,” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, December, 1998
- “Interests and Collectivities: Microfoundations for Collectivities,” SSRC Conference on Sovereignty, Notre Dame, April, 1997
- “Causal Explanation of Social Phenomena,” Spindel Conference in Philosophy, Memphis, October, 1995
- “Equity and Well-Being in Economic Development,” Society for Philosophy and Public Affairs, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division (Spring 1996)
- “Normative Issues in Economic Development Practice,” Seminar Paper, Center for Population and Development Studies, Harvard University (Spring 1996)

- “Development Ethics: Normative Issues in Development,” Center for International Studies, Princeton University (Spring 1993)
- “Microfoundations in the Human Sciences,” Colloquium Paper, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University (Spring 1993)
- “On the Scope and Limits of Generalizations in the Social Sciences,” Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science, Boston University (Fall 1992)
- “Generalization and Prediction in the Social Sciences,” Philosophy Colloquium, Duke University (Fall 1992)
- “Food Security and Refugee Populations,” Conference on Refugee Populations, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Fall 1992)
- “Interest and Identity: Microfoundations for Asian Studies,” Conference on Theory in Asian Studies, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Oregon (May 1992)
- “Recent Perspectives on the Chinese Rural Economy, 1885-1935,” Association for Asian Studies (April 1992)
- “Interest, Class, and Identity: Theoretical Frameworks for Asian Studies,” Association for Asian Studies (April 1992)
- “Poverty and Growth: Development Strategies that Favor the Poor,” Agrarian Studies Program Seminar Series, Yale University (1992)
- “Poverty-First Strategies of Development for the Third World,” Conference on Labor Unions in Third-World Economic Development, University of California, San Diego (1991)
- “Putting the Poor First: Poverty-first Strategies of Economic Development,” Conference of SSRC-MacArthur Foundation Fellows in International Peace and Security, Budapest (1990)
- “Feasible Socialism,” panel on “Is There A Socialist Alternative for Eastern Europe?” with Mary Kaldor, Ferenc Miszlivetz, and Daniel Little, Conference of SSRC-MacArthur Foundation Fellows in International Peace and Security, Budapest (1990)
- “Development Traps in Traditional and Modern China,” Association for Asian Studies (1990)
- “Local Politics and Class Conflict in Peasant China,” Peasant Culture and Consciousness Conference, Bellagio, Italy (1990)
- “Food Security, Rural Development, and International Conflict,” Conference of SSRC- MacArthur Foundation Fellows in International Peace and Security, Morelos, Mexico (1989)
- “Stagnation and Surplus in Traditional Chinese Agriculture,” New England Association for Asian Studies (1987)
- “Distributive Characteristics of Rural Development Strategies,” Kellogg Food and World Hunger Conference, Colgate University (1987)
- “Local Politics and Class Conflict: Theories of Peasant Rebellion in 19th-Century China,” New England Historical Association (1987)
- “Socialist Exploitation,” American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Program (1987)
- “Microfoundations of Marxism,” Southeastern Marxist Scholars Conference, Duke University (1987)
- “Understanding Peasants,” APA Central Division Program (1986)
- “Theory versus Data in Skinner’s Macroregions Argument,” Fairbank Center China Seminar Series, Harvard University (1986)
- “Methodological Individualism and Explanation in *Capital*,” APA Western Division Program (1985)
- “Dialectics and Science in Marx’s *Capital*,” APA Pacific Division Program (1985)
- “The Scientific Standing of Marx’s *Capital*,” APA Western Division (1984) (Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism)
- “Does Marx Have a Theory of Capitalism?,” APA Western Division (1984) (Radical Philosophy Association)
- “Historical Materialism and *Capital*,” Radical Philosophy Association (New York) (1983)
- “Justification in Rawls’s Theory of Justice,” Creighton Club (New York State Philosophical Society) (1981)

#### **SEMINARS AND COLLOQUIA** (18)

- “Transportation as a Large Historical Factor: A Case Study in New Philosophy of History,” Humanitas Colloquium, University of Michigan-Dearborn (September 2002)
- “Social Kinds and Comparative Research,” Department of Political Science Colloquium, University of Michigan (February 2002)
- “Methodology and Philosophy of Social Science,” Department of Political Science Junior Honors, University of Michigan (February 2002)
- “Philosophy of Social Science” and “Causal Reasoning in the Social Sciences,” ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan (August 2001; July 2002; July 2003; July 2004; August 2005; July 2006)

- “Causal Reasoning in the Social Sciences,” Institute for Social Research (fall 2000)  
 “Development Ethics,” Provost’s Roundtable, UM-Dearborn (fall 2000)  
 “Historical Concepts, Social Ontology, Macrohistory,” Humanitas, UM-Dearborn (fall 2000)  
 “Issues in the Philosophy of Social Science,” Social Science Colloquium, UM-Dearborn (fall 2000)  
 “Are There Law-Like Generalizations in Political Science?,” Seminar Paper, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (Fall 1994)  
 “The Logic of Confirmation in IR Theory,” Seminar Paper, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (Spring 1994)  
 “Causal Reasoning in IR Theory,” Seminar Paper, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (Fall 1993)  
 “Causal Inference in Political Science,” Seminar Paper, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (Spring 1993)  
 “Generalizations and Explanation in Political Science,” Seminar Paper, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (Fall 1992); Colgate University Humanities Colloquium (Fall 1992)  
 “Causal Mechanisms and Causal Laws,” Seminar Paper, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (Spring 1992)  
 “Rational Choice Models and Social Science Methodology,” Sociology Seminar Paper, SUNY-Binghamton (1991)  
 “Poverty and Peace Studies,” Seminar, Peace Studies Program, Colgate University (1991)  
 “Normative Constraints on Economic Development Theory,” Wellesley College (1991), Colgate University (1991)  
 “The Case for Democratic Socialism,” Boston University (1990)

**BOOK REVIEWS AND REPLIES** (48)

- William Sewell, Jr., *Logics of History* in *Journal of Social History* (2007)  
 Mario Bunge, *Finding Philosophy in Social Science* in *American Journal of Sociology* (1999)  
 M.R. Griffiths and J. R. Lucas, *Ethical Economics* in *Ethics* (1999)  
 Robert D. Jenks, *Insurgency and Social Disorder in Guizhou: The “Miao” Rebellion, 1854-1873* in *American Historical Review* (1998)  
 Martin Hollis, *Reason in Action: Essays in the Philosophy of Social Science* in *Ethics* (1997)  
 Lawrence B. Mohr, *The Causes of Human Behavior: Implications for Theory and Method in the Social Sciences* in *American Journal of Sociology* (1997)  
 Forrest D. Colburn, *The Vogue of Revolution in Poor Countries* in *Economic Development and Cultural Change* (1997)  
 Martha Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover, eds., *Women, Culture and Development: A Study of Human Capabilities* in *Ethics and the Environment* (1997)  
 Anthony Giddens, *Politics, Sociology and Social Theory: Encounters with Classical and Contemporary Social Thought* and Barry Barnes, *The Elements of Social Theory* in *American Political Science Review* (1996)  
 Stephen Turner, *The Social Theory of Practices: Tradition, Tacit Knowledge, and Presuppositions* in *Ethics* (1996)  
 Odoric Wou, *Mobilizing the Masses: Building Revolution in Henan* in *American Historical Review* (1995)  
 Robert M. Netting, *Smallholders, Householders: Farm Families and the Ecology of Intensive, Sustainable Agriculture* in *Journal of Asian Studies* 53:3 (1994)  
 D. Wade Hands, *Testing, Rationality, and Progress: Essays on the Popperian Tradition in Economic Methodology* in *Ethics* 104:3 (1994)  
 Sue Rosenberg Zalk and Janice Gordon-Kelter, eds., *Revolutions in Knowledge: Feminism in the Social Sciences* in *Ethics* (1994)  
 Erik Olin Wright, Andrew Levine, and Elliott Sober, *Reconstructing Marxism: Essays on Explanation and the Theory of History* in *The Philosophical Review* (1994)  
 Jean Ensminger, *Making a Market: The Institutional Transformation of an African Society* in *Economic Development and Cultural Change* (1994)  
 Roger S. Gottlieb, *Marxism 1844-1990: Origins, Betrayal, Rebirth*. In *Science and Society* (1994)  
 Scott Gordon, *The History and Philosophy of Social Science* in *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* (1994)  
 Jean Oi, *State and Society in Contemporary China: The Political Economy of Village Government* in *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 42:3 (1994)

- Kathryn Bernhardt, *Rents, Taxes, and Peasant Resistance: The Lower Yangzi Region, 1840-1950* in *American Historical Review* (1993)
- Margaret Gilbert, *On Social Facts* in *International Studies in Philosophy* (1993)
- Keith Graham, *Karl Marx Our Contemporary: Social Theory for a Post-Leninist World* in *Philosophical Books* 44:3 (1993)
- Jeffrey L. Gould, *To Lead As Equals: Rural Protest and Political Consciousness in Chinandega, Nicaragua, 1912-1979* in *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 41:4 (1993)
- James Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts* in *Political Theory* (1993)
- “Marxist Theory and Soviet Practice: Ernest Gellner's Appraisal of Contemporary Soviet Ethnography,” review essay on *State and Society in Soviet Thought* in *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 22:2 (1992)
- Jorgen Delman, ed., *Remaking Peasant China* in *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 40:4 (1992)
- Loren Brandt, *Commercialization and Agricultural Development: Central and Eastern China, 1870-1937* in *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 40:2 (1992)
- Robert Meister, *Political Identity: Thinking Through Marx* in *Ethics* (1992)
- Carol Gould, *Rethinking Democracy* in *The Philosophical Review* (1991)
- Alison Dundes Renteln, *International Human Rights: Universalism Versus Relativism* in *Journal of Asian Studies* 50:2 (1991)
- Ian Forbes, *Marx and the New Individual* in *Philosophical Books* 32:4 (1991)
- Stephen A. Resnick and Richard D. Wolff, *Knowledge and Class: A Marxian Critique of Political Economy* in *Science & Society* 55:2 (1991)
- Janice Stockard, *Daughters of the Canton Delta: Marriage Patterns and Economic Strategies in South China, 1930* in *Social Science Quarterly* (1991)
- “Reply to David Faure,” *American Historical Review* 96:4 (1991)
- Bernard Crick, *Socialism* in *Ethics* (1990)
- G. A. Cohen, *History Labour and Freedom* in *Political Theory* (1990)
- “Reply to Kevin Brien,” *Review of Radical Political Economics* (1990)
- Patrick Murray, *Marx's Theory of Scientific Knowledge* in *Philosophical Books* 30 (1989)
- Kevin M. Brien, *Marx, Reason, and the Art of Freedom* in *Review of Radical Political Economics* (1990)
- Jon Elster, *An Introduction to Karl Marx* and *Karl Marx: A Reader* in *Ethics* 98 (1988)
- Andrew Levine, *Arguing for Socialism* in *The Philosophical Review* 45 (1986)
- James Fishkin, *Beyond Subjective Morality* in *Ethics* 96 (1985)
- Donald Hodges, *The Bureaucratization of Socialism* in *Canadian Philosophical Reviews* 4 (1984)
- C. L. Ten, *Mill on Liberty* in *The Philosophical Review* 42 (1983)
- David Thomas, *Naturalism and Social Science* in *The Philosophical Review* 42 (1983)
- Cecil L. Eubanks, *Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: An Analytical Bibliography* in *Clio* 9:1 (1979)
- Alex Callinicos, *Althusser's Marxism* in *Clio* 7:2 (1978)
- Carl Boggs, *Gramsci's Marxism* in *Clio* 7:2 (1978)

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- American Philosophical Association  
Association for Asian Studies  
International Development Ethics Association  
Social Science History Association (Macrohistorical Dynamics network chair)  
American Political Science Association

**Philosophy of Social Science  
Sociology 508/Philosophy 511**

**D. Little  
Winter 2010**

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[www.understandingsociety.org](http://www.understandingsociety.org)

Office hour: 5:00-6:00 and by appointment

**Course description.** This course provides an examination of the logic of social science research through the writings of philosophers and social scientists. The philosophy of social science is a discipline that attempts to analyze the logic, methodology, modes of explanation, and methods of inquiry of the social sciences. The past dozen years have witnessed an explosion of valuable debate about foundational issues in sociology and other social sciences. The course is based on the assumption that both philosophers and social scientists will benefit from a better understanding of the conceptual and methodological issues that arise in the conduct of social science research. One of the goals of the discipline is to allow us to come to some judgments about the degree of validity and credibility that various social science theories have as assertions about the nature of the social world we experience. The course is premised on the assumption that the philosophy of social science should develop its theories and analyses by working closely with strong examples of good social science research. We should frame the defining questions of the philosophy of social science by reflecting upon the large conceptual and methodological issues that have actually been important to social scientists as they conduct their research and theory construction. The course will make use of recent writings by such social scientists as Abbott, Mahoney, Sewell, Steinmetz, Adams, Lieberman, and Shapiro as we explore recent debates about the foundations of social science explanation. Central topics will include the logic of comparative social science, the role of rational choice theory, the cultural turn, the utility of causal mechanisms, hidden assumptions in quantitative reasoning, and the nature of the social.

**Course requirements.** Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of class participation and written work. Students will be asked to lead discussion of a topic several times during the semester. Two papers (12-15 pages); regular class participation and presentation. I expect you to be prepared to discuss course readings on the assigned date.

**Required texts**

Abbott, Andrew Delano. 2001. *Chaos of disciplines*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Jon Elster. 2007. *Explaining Social Behavior: Nuts and Bolts For the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (N&B)

Hedström, Peter, and Richard Swedberg, eds. 1998. *Social Mechanisms : An Analytical Approach to Social Theory*, Studies in Rationality and Social Change. New York: Cambridge University Press. (H&S)

Mahoney, James and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds. 2003. *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (M&D)



McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow, Charles Tilly. *Dynamics of Contention*.

**Recommended texts / CTools resources**

- Abbott, Andrew Delano. 1999. *Department & discipline : Chicago sociology at one hundred*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Adams, J., E. S. Clemens, et al. (2005). *Remaking modernity : politics, history, and sociology*. Durham, Duke University Press.
- Brinton, Mary C., and Victor Nee, eds. 1998. *New institutionalism in sociology*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Calhoun, Craig. *Sociology in America*.
- DeLanda, Manuel. *A New Philosophy of Society*.
- Diani, Mario and Doug McAdam, eds. (2003). *Social movements and networks: relational approaches to collective action*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Friedman, Jeffrey. 1996. *The rational choice controversy : economic models of politics reconsidered*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Green, Donald P., and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *Pathologies of rational choice theory : a critique of applications in political science*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Habermas, Jurgen. On the Logic of the Social Sciences.
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Little, Daniel. 1991. *Varieties of Social Explanation (VSE)* (chapters available in CTools)
- Little, Daniel. 1998. *Microfoundations, Method and Causation (MMC)* (chapters available in CTools)
- McDonald, T. J. (1996). *The historic turn in the human sciences*. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press.
- McKim, Vaughn R., and Stephen P. Turner. 1997. *Causality in crisis? : statistical methods the search for causal knowledge in the social sciences*. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press.
- Ortner, Sherry B., ed. 1999. *The Fate of "Culture": Geertz and Beyond*. Berkeley, California: University of California Press.
- Schelling, Thomas, *Micromotives and Macrobehavior*.
- Sewell, William. *Logics of History*.
- Steinmetz, G. (2005). *The politics of method in the human sciences : positivism and its epistemological others*. Durham, Duke University Press.
- Turner, Jonathan H., ed. 2001. *Handbook of Sociological Theory*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

**Philosophy of the Social Sciences  
Syllabus -- Winter 2010**

**Beginnings: Social sciences and “the social”**

*Current debates: positivism, modernism, and realism*

1/11/10 The current debates. Naturalism. Empirical methods and philosophy of science. What is the “social”? A new approach: methodological localism

READINGS:

Little, MMC, “Introduction” to *Microfoundations, Method and Causation* (CTools)

Little, “What is philosophy of social science?” (CTools)

Lieberson, Introduction to *Making it Count*

Adams, Clemens, Orloff, Introduction to *Remaking modernity : politics, history, and sociology* (CTools)

Steinmetz, introduction to *The politics of method in the human sciences : positivism and its epistemological others* (CTools)

McDonald, Introduction to *The historic turn in the human sciences*

**What is the “social”?**

1/18/10

[Martin Luther King holiday. Not a mandatory class session, but I will be there for discussion and in order to get to know you better.]

**Agents in structures**

*Agency and rational choice*

1/25/10 Rational choice theory; aggregative explanation; microfoundations. Failures of rationality.

READINGS:

Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation* (VSE), chapter 2

Elster, Nuts and Bolts (N&B), chapters 4-14

Norbert Elias, *Human Beings and their Emotions*

***The New Institutionalism; institutions, networks, and structures***

2/1/10 How institutions affect social outcomes. The new institutionalism

READINGS:

Brinton and Nee, chapters 1,2,3,5 (CTools)

Thelen, “How Institutions Evolve” (M&R)

Mario Diani, *Networks and Social Movements* (Diani, Mario and Doug McAdam, eds. (2003). *Social movements and networks: relational approaches to collective action*. Oxford: Oxford University Press)

McAdam, *Beyond Structural Analysis* (Diani, Mario and Doug McAdam, eds. (2003). *Social movements and networks: relational approaches to collective action*. Oxford: Oxford University Press)

**Concepts of the social**

2/8/10 What are some of the special problems associated with formulating conceptual schemes and theories for the social world?

READINGS:

George Steinmetz, *The Devil’s Handwriting: Precolonial Discourse*

Daniel Little, *Levels of the Social*

Gabriel Abend, *The Meaning of Theory*

McCarthy and Zald, *The Enduring Vitality of Resource Mobilization Theory* (chapter 25 of Jonathan Turner, ed., *Handbook of Sociological Theory*)

Steinmetz video interview

### **Causal explanation**

#### *What is a social causal explanation?*

2/15/10 Causal explanation

#### READINGS:

Elster, N&B, chapter 1-2

Little, VSE, chapter 2

Abbott, "Causal Devolution"

Theda Skocpol, France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions

#### *Causal mechanisms in the social world*

2/22/10 Causal mechanisms

#### FIRST PAPER DUE

#### READINGS:

Hedstrom and Swedborg, "Introduction" (H&S)

Schelling, "Social Mechanisms and Social Dynamics" (H&S)

Elster, "A plea for mechanisms" (H&S)

Sorensen, "Theoretical mechanisms and the empirical study of social processes" (H&S)

McAdam, Tarrow, Tilly, "Methods for Measuring Mechanisms of Contention"

3/1/10 **SPRING BREAK**

### **Comparative historical sociology**

#### *Structures in history*

3/8/10 Comparative methods and historical social science

Explaining large historical outcomes: revolution and change of intellectual frameworks

#### READINGS:

McDonald, "What We Talk About ..."

Mahoney and Rueschemeyer, "Comparative Historical Analysis" (M&R)

Goldstone, "Comparative Historical Analysis" (M&R)

Skocpol-Somers, "Uses of Comparative History"

#### *New perspectives on historical sociology*

3/15/10 Issues in comparative historical social science

#### READINGS:

Steinmetz, "Odious Comparisons" (CTools)

Mahoney, "Strategies of Causal Assessment" (M&R)

Sewell, "Three Temporalities"

Pierson, "Big, Slow-Moving, and ... Invisible" (M&R)

### **Contention and causal mechanisms**

### ***Contention and causation***

3/22/10 Causation of contention  
Causal mechanisms rather than causal regularities

#### READINGS:

McAdam, introduction to second edition of *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*  
McAdam, Tarrow, Tilly, *Dynamics of Contention* (selected chapters)  
Video of Tilly interview

3/29/10 Explaining social movements

#### READINGS:

Michael Mann, *Fascists* (selected chapters)  
Sidney Tarrow, *TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS: Contention and Institutions in International Politics*  
Video of Tarrow interview

### ***The interpretation of action***

4/5/10 Beliefs, frameworks, and worldviews: interpreting the agent's mentality.

#### READINGS:

Little, VSE, chapter 3  
Geertz, "Deep Play" (CTools)  
Geertz, "Thick Description" (CTools)  
Ortner, "Introduction" (Ortner)  
Salzinger, "Producing Women: Femininity on the Line" (CTools)

### ***Sociology as a discipline***

4/12/10

#### READINGS:

Andrew Abbott, *Chaos of Disciplines* (chapters to be assigned)  
Michael Burroway, *Two methods in search of science*  
Gabriel Abend, *Styles of Sociological Thought*

### ***Continental perspectives***

4/19/10

Perspectives on the human sciences from a European point of view

#### READINGS:

Habermas, *Logic of the social sciences* (selections)  
Weber, *Methodology of the Social Sciences* (selections)  
Latour, *Reassembling the Social* (selections)  
DeLanda, *A New Philosophy of Society* (selections)

SECOND PAPER DUE