

Anthropology 5312: Norms, Networks, and Repertoires: The Anthropology of Institutions

John Bowen, Fall 2015

Tuesdays, 1-4:00. McMillan 150

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We live our lives in social institutions, from those that are formally organized, such as schools, courts, and hospitals, to those that do not have a fixed organizational structure, such as language or norms of exchange. We may think of social institutions as complex social forms that reproduce and transform themselves. Each is shaped by norms or rules, but people do not simply “follow rules”: they develop strategies, draw on cultural repertoires and schemas for action, and form social networks.

Anthropologists and sociologists (and others in related fields) study institutions through ethnography, the close study of everyday interactions, albeit also incorporating approaches from politics and economics, and they do so influenced by the traditions of social pragmatism. We explore the theoretical and empirical dimensions of an ethnographic and pragmatist approach, as applied to schools, courtrooms, science laboratories, art, and other institutions.

The course is about closely reading and discussing certain texts. Therefore, the main requirement is that you read all the materials prior to class, and come ready to discuss them. To encourage this practice, on each week beginning with Week 2, you will post on a discussion thread your thoughts and questions regarding the week’s readings. You will do this by 2 PM on the Monday before class. Posting is done by starting a thread on the Forum for that week in Blackboard: first one there, start a thread using the class meeting date as the Name. In addition, pairs of students will lead class discussion in each session, and their joint posting will contain a more extensive list of questions and points for discussion. During the course, you will each make an informal presentation of how your work can draw from this literature. There is no other work required.

The articles are posted on the Blackboard site under “shared files”.

Aug 25, Introduction

Sept. 1, Pragmatism and sociology

Dewey, John. 1924. “Logical Method and the Law”, *Cornell Law Quarterly* 10:17-27

Goffman, Erving. 1983. “The Interaction Order”, *American Sociological Review* 48: 1-17

Sept 8, Interaction and communication

Mead, George Herbert. 1934. “The Self”, in *Mind, Self, and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 200-222, 260-273

Garfinkel, Harold. 1964. “Studies of the routine grounds of everyday activities”, *Social Problems* 11 (3): 225-50

Cicourel, Aaron V. 1985. “Text and Discourse”, *Annual Review of Anthropology* 14: 159-85

Sept 15, Critique and justification

Bourdieu Pierre. 1989. “Social Space and Symbolic Power,” *Sociological Theory* 7:14–25

Boltanski, Luc, and Laurent Thévenot. 1999. “The Sociology of Critical Capacity,” *European*

Journal of Social Theory 2 (3): 359-377

Lamont, Michèle, and Laurent Thévenot. 2000. "Introduction" to Lamont and Thévenot, eds. *Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sept 22, Repertoires and evaluation

Barbot, Janine, and Nicolas Dodier. 2015. "Rethinking the Role of Victims in Criminal Prosecution", *Revue Française de Science Politique*, 64 (3): 23-49

Saguy, Abigail C. 2000. "Sexual Harassment in France and the United States", in Michèle Lamont and Laurent Thévenot, eds. *Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Fourcade, Marion. 2011. "Cents and sensibility: economic valuation and the nature of "nature." *American Journal of Sociology*, 116:1721-77

Sept 29, Frames and schemas

Snow, David A. et al. 1986. "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation", *American Sociological Review* 51 (464-481)

Bowen, John R., Christophe Bertossi, Jan Willem Duyvendak, and Mona Lena Krook. 2014. "An Institutional Approach to Perceptions of Muslims in Europe", in *European States and Their Muslim Citizens*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bertossi, Christophe, and John R. Bowen. 2014. "Practical Schemas, Conjunctures, and Social Locations: Laïcité in French Hospitals and Schools", in *ibid.*

Oct 6, No Class

Oct 13, Performativity

Austin, J. L. 1975. Lectures 1-3, in *How to do things with Words*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Harvard University Press

Derrida, Jacques. 1988. "Signature Event Context", in *Limited Inc*, pp. 1-23. Evanston: Northwestern University Press

Velthuis, Olav. 2005. Introduction, chs. 1, 7 in *Talking Prices*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Oct 20, Finance

Ho, Karen. 2009. Ch. 2 in *Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Zaloom, Caitlin. 2004. "The Productive Life of Risk", *Cultural Anthropology* 19 (3): 365-391.

Stark, David. 2009. Ch. 1 in *The Sense of Dissonance: Accounts of Worth in Economic Life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Oct 27, Science

Latour, Bruno, and Steve Woolgar. 1986. *Laboratory Life: The Construction of Scientific Facts*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Nov 3, Clinics

Heimer, Carol A. 1999. "Competing Institutions: Law, Medicine, and Family in Neonatal Intensive Care," *Law & Society Review*, 33:17-66.

Livingston, Julie. 2012. Chs. 1, 3, in *Improvising Medicine: An African oncology ward in an emerging cancer epidemic*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Gomart, Emilie. 2002. "Methadone: Six effects in search of a substance", *Social Studies of Science* 32 (1): 93-135

Nov 10, Government

Foucault, Michel. 2007 [1977-78]. Lectures 1-3 in *Security, Territory, Population*. New York: Palgrave.

Hull, Matthew S. 2012. Introduction, ch. 2 in *Government of Paper: The Materiality of Bureaucracy in Urban Pakistan*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Gupta, Akhil. 2012. Ch. 5 in *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Nov 17, Law

Latour, Bruno. 2011, "Scientific Objects and Legal Objectivity", in Alain Pottage and Martha Mundy, eds., *Law, Anthropology and the Constitution of the Social: Making Persons and Things*, pp. 73-114. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bowen, John. 2016. Ch. 6, "Unstable Performativity", in *On British Islam: Religion, Law, and Everyday Practice in Shari'a Councils*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Ticktin, Miriam. 2005. "Policing and Humanitarianism in France: Immigration and the Turn to Law as State of Exception," *interventions* 7 (3): 347-368.

Thomas, Kedron. 2012. "Intellectual Property Law and the Ethics of Imitation in Guatemala," *Anthropological Quarterly* 85 (3): 785-816

Nov 24, Student presentations

[Thanksgiving]

Dec 1, Student presentations