

GRADUATE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
COMPARATIVE HISTORICAL SOCIOLOGY

October 2-3, 2000

Answer ONE question from each section.

PART I: General approaches

1. Outline the major approaches to small-N comparative historical studies and their relative advantages and disadvantages. Use several empirical examples to substantiate your arguments.
2. "The cultural turn may be viewed as either the cause or the effect of the collapse of explanatory paradigms." In a well organized essay, discuss what is meant by "cultural turn" and "explanatory paradigms" and then use several specific empirical examples to assess this statement.

PART II: Research design

1. Design a comparative historical research project that would identify the effects of welfare state policies on female childbearing practices. Be sure to include a review of relevant research, specific hypothesis and a detailed outline of your proposed methodology.
2. Forward an argument to explain the role of identity and culture in rise of new social movements after World War II. Briefly propose research that would test this argument.

PART III. Specializations

1. You have been invited as a sociologist to evaluate protest activities this year, first at Seattle at the WTO meeting, and more recently in Prague over the IMF/World Bank meetings. How would you seek to establish these well-publicized protests as either collective action and/or as a new social movement? What would you look for as causes of these occurrences? In your answer, discuss the major works and theoretical paradigms that inform your discussion.
2. How has citizenship, as a mode of incorporation in the nation-state, evolved over the past century? Be sure to include a discussion of contemporary forms of citizenship noting how characterizations of citizenship as "post-national," "transnational" and "multicultural" predict different futures for this mode of incorporation.