

Duke University

Department of Sociology

GRADUATE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY

August 26, 2004

The doctoral exam in Economic Sociology is organized into two parts. The question in Part I is mandatory, and you must select TWO of the three questions from Part II. The aim of the examination is to determine the student's command of this specialization within the constraints of time. No such examination can test exhaustively the content of your knowledge but it should demonstrate your general familiarity with major theories and methods as well as contemporary issues in the specialization.

Please allocate your time over the next 24 hours as efficiently as possible. Each question of the examination should be allocated four to six double-spaced, typed pages, and the completed exam can have a maximum of 15 typed pages of text (excluding references and analytical charts). Please use standard one-inch margins, and a reasonable font size. You may consult your notes and readings but you may not discuss any aspects of the examination with others until after all exams have been completed. Return your completed exams to Claudette Parker.

DATE AND TIME STARTED: _____

DATE AND TIME COMPLETED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

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Part I: This question is REQUIRED of everyone.

1. Within economic sociology, one can divide the literature into broad institutional, network, and cultural perspectives. Select studies by two authors within each approach, and use their work to illustrate some of the most important distinguishing features of institutional, network, and cultural analysis within economic sociology. It would be helpful in summarizing your points if you construct a chart identifying the main dependent, independent, and intervening (if any) variables for these six studies. Comment on the relative strengths and weaknesses of each perspective.

Part II: Answer TWO of the following three questions.

2. There are two different approaches in recent studies on globalization: one emphasizes the impact of global economic forces that generate trends toward convergence, and the other focuses on how the structural pressures have to be filtered through the national institutions that continue to sustain the diversities of capitalist economies. Critique these two approaches with appropriate references to key authors, and design an empirical study to test them.
3. The literature on social networks has expanded dramatically in the past twenty-five years. Identify the major strands or varieties (i.e., competing approaches) of social network research. What are the key issues that differentiate the approaches theoretically and methodologically? What grounds do you see for synthesis of the different approaches?
4. Frank Dobbin's and Viviana Zelizer's works represent two different approaches in economic sociology on how culture shapes the economy. Discuss the differences between them at both the theoretical and empirical levels.