

Duke University
Sociology

Department of

GRADUATE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY

September 1, 2005

The doctoral exam in Economic Sociology is organized into two parts. The two questions in Part I are mandatory, and you must select one of the two 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: These two questions are REQUIRED.

1. What are the main ways that the networks literature and globalization studies have informed each other? Explain how theory and methods from one have contributed, or failed to contribute, to advances in the other. What potential ways can this integration move forward in the future? In the process, make an argument about whether the integration thus far has been bidirectional or disproportionately unidirectional.
2. How has the concept of “institution” been used in economic sociology? Define and illustrate THREE major institutional approaches. Your argument should span several different areas within the economic sociology reading list.

Part II: Answer ONE of the following two questions.

3. The issue of how and where to draw the boundaries of an organization has been an important one in the evolution of research on organizations. Provide a brief history of how different theories of organizations approach the boundary problem. Which approach to this problem do you prefer and why? Do you see this issue as resolved or ongoing? Why?
4. In recent years, many scholars have debated the changing nature of work in the United States. Identify an unresolved question in that literature, and design a study that effectively addresses this issue. Be specific about main concepts, sampling and measurement, levels of analysis, variables, and hypotheses.