

Duke University

Department of Sociology

GRADUATE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY

August 31, 2006

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.

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Part I: These two questions are REQUIRED.

1. Social network theories and methods have increasingly made their way into the analysis of the economy over the past 25 years in the field of economic sociology. Why? Construct a critical argument addressing the question. Cite and comment on what you see to be the seminal contributions to this expansion of the field, including the use of networks defined at the international level. Moreover, demonstrate how/if network approaches provide something distinctively novel relative to other approaches.
2. Select one of your areas of sub-specialization and identify an unresolved problem that involves contrasting theoretical arguments in the literature. Briefly explain the main arguments and how they differ in accounting for the problem. What hypotheses can you formulate? Then, propose a study that can empirically adjudicate between the contrasting arguments. Be sure to make clear what sort of evidence would be necessary to support or refute the contrasting arguments. Offer a feasible research design including the operationalization of key concepts, the primary or secondary data to be collected, the sampling design (if applicable), and analytical techniques or methods to be deployed.

Part II: Answer ONE of the following two questions.

3. What, if anything, is really new about the most recent wave of economic globalization? Identify 3-4 major ways that globalization differs from previous eras or fails to be different. Be concrete about what globalization means and how to measure it. Is there a distinctive sociological approach to globalization? Offer several examples from the empirical literature.
4. There has been a considerable anti-globalization backlash in recent years. Outline a course syllabus that would address this topic using both classic and contemporary works in economic sociology that provide you with useful theoretical perspectives to analyze topics like resistance, social protest, corporate social responsibility, pressures for protectionism versus openness, and counter-hegemonic movements? How would key sociological constructs like the world system, the state, multinational corporations, civil society, and labor inform such a course?