

Duke University

Department of Sociology

GRADUATE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY

August 27, 2007

The doctoral exam in Economic Sociology is organized into two parts. The question in Part I is 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:** This first question is REQUIRED:

1. Imagine that you are developing a graduate-level seminar in organizational sociology. The course is organized in five modules, each of which addresses one of the five "cutting edge" issues currently dominating the field. Discuss the organization of the course you would create: What *are* the five key issues you would choose and why? What ancillary topics would you necessarily leave out or incorporate under the five major topics? What are some of key themes or readings would you include under each topic and why? Defend your choices, not only of the five core areas, but also your decisions about what to include and what to leave out of the course.

**Part II:** Answer TWO of the following four questions.

2. There has been a resurgence of economic sociology in recent years, and in parallel, a very rapidly growing literature on globalization. In what ways do the economic sociology and globalization literatures connect? Identify two or three main paradigms that bridge these fields. Highlight the main ideas, authors, and key findings in each paradigm. Discuss and provide examples of the degree to which these paradigms are competing or complementary.
3. The notion of labor market segmentation was used widely in the past in sociology. Is this concept still valid? If so, how might you draw on the ideas from this literature to enhance your own research? If not, how would the ideas from this literature need to be changed to make them useful to you and other researchers? Cite both theoretical and empirical research to justify your answer.
4. Explanations of the manner in which organizations function in their environments currently tend to be rooted in either institutional theory or organizational ecology. What are the main assumptions of each theory? Are they competing theories or can they be considered complementary? How might researchers working in each area learn from each other? In particular, consider how each set of ideas addresses questions about organizational change.
5. What is the relationship between political and economic development? Specifically, discuss the relationship between democracy and development and how different theoretical perspectives have explained it. Mass media accounts of the emerging "New World Order" trumpet the proliferation of democratic regimes, yet development pressures on such regimes are likely to mount in the coming years. How well do existing theories account for this apparent relationship between democracy and development? What, if anything, is missing from such theories? Are they equally valid for advanced industrial and developing regions of the world?