

POVERTY IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
SOCIOLOGY 228
Fall 2010

Professor David Brady
Wednesday 2:50-5:20
Soc/Psych 329

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This class will seek to train graduate students in the social science, theories and debates within the sociology of poverty. We will scrutinize major scholarly traditions, contending theories, frontiers of research, social changes throughout the world, and a host of methodologies. Further, we will spend ample time studying the U.S., other advanced capitalist democracies, and the developing world. Among the goals I have for this course, I aim to: i) develop students' analytical and writing skills; ii) cultivate students' theoretical depth and understanding; iii) expand students' scholarly knowledge of this diverse but coherent field, and iv) engage students with a rich and exciting set of intellectual debates.

The class will study poverty with an explicitly comparative perspective: different theoretical perspectives, different dimensions of poverty, different substantive domains, and different regions, nations and historical periods. Many of the readings highlight countries besides the U.S., partly because the U.S. is less than 5% of the world's population. As well, I have especially sought out readings on less developed countries (as those regions tend to be underrepresented in contemporary sociology). Finally, the class will seek to highlight areas of this field that are more neglected by our department and will spend less time on areas that are already well-represented in our department.

READINGS:

The readings will include seven books and a host of journal articles and chapters. The books are available at The Regulator Bookstore on 9th Street.

Brady, David. 2009. *Rich Democracies, Poor People* Oxford University Press.

Gilens, Martin. 1999. *Why Americans Hate Welfare* University of Chicago Press.

O'Connor, Alice. 2001. *Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy, and the Poor in Twentieth-Century U.S. History* Princeton University Press.

Venkatesh, Sudhir. 2006. *Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor* Harvard University Press.

Wilson, William J. 1987. *The Truly Disadvantaged* University of Chicago Press.

The remaining readings will be available through the course's Blackboard site and/or provided in the preceding class. In general, students should read the readings in the order they are listed.

EVALUATION:

Students will be graded on three exams and class participation. The exams will be take-home exams and will involve students answering 2-3 essay questions in a total of about 10 pages.

Though class material and learning cumulatively build over the semester, the exams will largely

be non-cumulative. Students will typically have one week to complete the exam. The exams will be evaluated for professional writing skills, conceptual and theoretical depth, mastery of the material, creativity and analytic rigor. Moreover, the exams will seek to facilitate students' skills of writing a theoretical section of a research paper.

Active class participation can take a variety of forms, including enthusiastic and intellectually rigorous discussion, correspondence with the class and/or professor, and regular class attendance. If individual graduate students are not participating in class discussion, I reserve the right to request weekly written summaries of the readings. The composition of final grades are:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	30%
Class Participation	25%

I do not give incomplete grades, except under extreme circumstances. In the case an incomplete is warranted, you should contact me **before** the exam is due.

CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Section I: Foundations of Poverty Research

September 1 Introduction to the Class; and The Extent of Poverty in the World

September 8 History and Theories of Poverty Research

O'Connor, Alice. 2001. *Poverty Knowledge* Princeton University Press.

September 15 The Conceptualization and Measurement of Poverty

Sen, Amartya. 1999. "Poverty As Capability Deprivation." Pp. 87-110 in *Development As Freedom* Anchor Books.

Silver, Hilary. 1994. "Social Exclusion and Social Solidarity: Three Paradigms." *International Labour Review* 133: 531-578.

Selections from: Rainwater, Lee and Timothy M. Smeeding. 2003. *Poor Kids in a Rich Country* Russell Sage Foundation.

Brady, David. 2009. "Chapter 2: Rethinking the Measurement of Poverty" in *Rich Democracies, Poor People* Oxford University Press.

Krishna, Anirudh. 2010. "Who Became Poor, Who Escaped Poverty, and Why? Developing and Using a Retrospective Methodology in Five Countries." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 29: 351-372.

Nolan, Brian and Christopher T. Whelan. 2010. "Using Non-Monetary Deprivation Indicators to Analyze Poverty and Social Exclusion: Lessons from Europe?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 29: 305-325.

September 22 Urban Poverty I: Core Arguments

Wilson, William Julius. 1987. *The Truly Disadvantaged* University of Chicago Press. (all but last chapter "State of the Art Review")

Massey, Douglas S. and Mary J. Fischer. 2000. "How Segregation Concentrates Poverty." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 23: 670-691.

Sampson, Robert J. and Jeffrey D. Morenoff. 2006. "Durable Inequality: Spatial Dynamics, Social Processes, and the Persistence of Poverty in Chicago Neighborhoods." Pp. 176-203 in *Poverty Traps*, edited by S. Bowles, S.N. Durlauf, and K. Hoff. Russell Sage Foundation and Princeton University Press.

September 29 Urban Poverty II: Extensions and Applications

Harding, David J. 2003. "Counterfactual Models of Neighborhood Effects: The Effect of Neighborhood Poverty on Dropping Out and Teenage Pregnancy." *American Journal of Sociology* 109: 676-719.

Crowder, Kyle and Scott J. South. 2005. "Race, Class, and Changing Patterns of Migration Between Poor and Nonpoor Neighborhoods." *American Journal of Sociology* 110: 1715-1763.

Sharkey, Patrick. 2008. "The Intergenerational Transmission of Context." *American Journal of Sociology* 113: 931-969.

Prologue and pp. 1-90 in Venkatesh, Sudhir. 2006. *Off The Books* Harvard University Press.

Small, Mario Luis. 2008. "Four Reasons to Abandon the Idea of 'The Ghetto.'" *City & Community* 7: 389-398.

Auyero, Javier and Deborah Swistum. 2008. "The Social Production of Toxic Uncertainty." *American Sociological Review* 73: 357-379.

EXAM #1 DUE October 6

Section II: Conflict, Politics and Social Change

October 6 Contemporary Global Poverty

Besley, Timothy and Robin Burgess. 2003. "Halving Global Poverty." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17: 3-22.

Wade, Robert Hunter. 2004. "Is Globalization Reducing Poverty and Inequality?" *World Development* 32: 567-589.

Selections from: Krishna, Anirudh. 2010. *One Illness Away* Oxford University Press.

Read one of these two:

Ravallion, Martin and Shaohua Chen. 2007. "China's (Uneven) Progress Against Poverty." *Journal of Development Economics* 82: 1-42. OR

Deaton, Angus and Valerie Kozel. 2005. "Data and Dogma: The Great Indian Poverty Debate." *World Bank Research Observer* 20: 177-199.

October 13 The Origins of Poverty in the Global South

Selections from Mahoney, James. 2010. *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development* Cambridge University Press.

Nunn, Nathan. 2008. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123: 139-176.

Selections from: Collier, Paul. 2006. *The Bottom Billion* Oxford University Press.

Ravallion, Martin. 2003. "The Debate on Globalization, Poverty and Inequality: Why Measurement Matters." *International Affairs* 79: 739-753.

Selections from Evans, Peter. 1979. *Dependent Development* Princeton University Press.

Arrighi, Giovanni. 2002. "The African Crisis: World Systemic and Regional Aspects." *New Left Review* 15: 5-36.

October 20 Protest, Resistance and Mobilization

- Selections from Scott, James. 1985. *Weapons of the Weak* Yale University Press.
- Selections from Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. 1993. *Regulating the Poor* Vintage.
- Selections from Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. 1979. *Poor People's Movements* Vintage.
- Bruch, Sarah K., Myra Marx Feree, and Joe Soss. 2010. "From Policy to Polity: Democracy, Paternalism, and the Incorporation of Disadvantaged Citizens." *American Sociological Review* 75: 205-226.

October 27 The Welfare State

- Brady, David. 2009. *Rich Democracies, Poor People* Oxford University Press.
- Schram, Sanford F., Joe Soss, Richard C. Fording, and Linda Houser. 2009. "Deciding to Discipline: Race, Choice, and Punishment at the Frontlines of Welfare Reform." *American Sociological Review* 74: 398-422.
- Misra, Joya, Stephanie Moller, and Michelle J. Budig. 2007. "Work-Family Policies and Poverty for Partnered and Single Women in Europe and North America." *Gender & Society* 21: 804-827.

November 3 Ideology and Attitudes

- Gilens, Martin. 1999. *Why Americans Hate Welfare* University of Chicago Press.
- Somers, Margaret R. and Fred Block. 2005. "From Poverty to Perversity: Ideas, Markets and Institutions over 200 Years of Welfare Debate." *American Sociological Review* 70: 260-287.
- Hicks, Alex. 2006. "Free-Market and Religious Fundamentalists Versus Poor Relief." *American Sociological Review* 71: 503-510.
- Somers, Margaret and Fred Block. 2006. "Poverty and Piety." *American Sociological Review* 71: 511-513.

EXAM #2 DUE November 10

Section III: Key Domains and Institutions of Poverty

November 10 Education

- Nussbaum, Martha. 2004. "Women's Education: A Global Challenge." *Signs* 29: 325-355.
- Buchmann, Claudia. 2000. "Family Structure, Parental Perceptions and Child Labor in Kenya: What Factors Determine Who is Enrolled in School?" *Social Forces* 78:1349-78.
- Saporito, Salvatore; Sohoni, Deenesh Sohoni. 2007. "Mapping Educational Inequality: Concentrations of Poverty among Poor and Minority Students in Public Schools." *Social Forces* 85: 1227-1253
- Jacob, Brian A. and Jens Ludwig. "Improving Educational Outcomes for Poor Children." Pp. 266-300 in *Changing Poverty, Changing Places*, edited by M. Cancian and S. Danziger. Russell Sage Foundation

November 17 Work and Labor Markets

- Pp. 91-277 and pp. 366-387 in Venkatesh, Sudhir A. 2006. *Off The Books* Harvard University Press.

- Newman, Katherine and Chauncy Lennon. 2004. "Working Poor, Working Hard: Trajectories at the Bottom of the American Labor Market." Pp. 116-140 in *Social Inequalities in Comparative Perspective*, edited by F. Devine and M.C. Waters. Blackwell.
- Pager, Devah, Bruce Western, and Bart Bonikowski. 2009. "Discrimination in a Low-Wage Labor Market: A Field Experiment." *American Sociological Review* 74: 777-799.
- McKeever, Matthew. 1998. "Reproduced Inequality: Participation and Success in the South African Informal Economy." *Social Forces* 76: 1209-41.

December 1 Crime

- Selections from: Hagan, John and Bill McCarthy. 1997. *Mean Streets* Cambridge University Press.
- Sampson, Robert J., Stephen W. Raudenbush, and Felton Earls. 1997. "Neighborhoods and Violent Crime: A Multilevel Study of Collective Efficacy." *Science* 277 (August 15): 918-924.
- Ludwig, Jens, Greg J. Duncan, and Paul Hirschfield. 2001. "Urban Poverty and Juvenile Crime: Evidence from a Randomized Housing-Mobility Experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 116: 655-679
- Pp.278-365 in Venkatesh, Sudhir. 2006. *Off The Books* Harvard University Press.
- Harding, David J. 2009. "Violence, Older Peers, and the Socialization of Adolescent Boys in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods." *American Sociological Review* 74: 445-464.
- Villarreal, Andres and Braulio F.A. Silva. 2006. "Social Cohesion, Criminal Victimization and Perceived Risk of Crime in Brazilian Neighborhoods." *Social Forces* 84: 1725-1753.

December 8 The Family

- Selections from: Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1992. *Death Without Weeping* University of California Press.
- Edin, Kathryn. 2000. "What Do Low-Income Single Mothers Say About Marriage?" *Social Problems* 47: 112-133.
- Edin, Kathryn, Maria J. Kefalas, and Joanna M. Reed. 2004. "A Peak Inside the Black Box: What Marriage Means for Poor Unmarried Parents." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66: 1007-1014.
- Burton, Linda M., Andrew Cherlin, Donna-Marie Winn, Angela Estacion, and Clara Holder-Taylor. 2009. "The Role of Trust in Low-Income Mothers' Intimate Unions." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 71: 1107-1124.
- Harknett, Kristen and Sara S. McLanahan. 2004. "Racial and Ethnic Differences in Marriage After the Birth of a Child." *American Sociological Review* 69: 790-811.
- Lichter, Daniel T., Deborah Roempke Graefe and J. Brian Brown. 2003. "Is Marriage a Panacea? Union Formation Among Economically Disadvantaged Unwed Mothers." *Social Problems* 50: 60-86.

EXAM #3 DUE December 16

December 16 EXAM #3 DUE, Thursday 2pm