Information for Graduate Students

Students who matriculate in our program can expect the training that has made the Indiana University Sociology Department one of the premier doctoral programs. Through extensive course work and close contact with faculty, our graduates find jobs in leading programs and publish in top journals such as the *American Sociological Review*, the *American Journal of Sociology*, and *Social Forces*. Our department won the 2001 American Sociological Association award for its outstanding graduate education and mentorship.

On working with me

I am happy to provide general academic support to any student in our graduate program. However, I am most qualified to help students if we share research interests. These include organizational theory, political sociology, sociology of education, and sociology of knowledge. I can also help students on mathematical models. The following lists what you need to know if you want to work with me. In addition to these materials, I expect students to read widely in other fields.

Organizational theory

Adam Smith & the division of labor; Weber’s writings on bureaucracy; Frederick Taylor & scientific management; human relations; Barnard’s Functions of the Executive; rational choice models; bounded rationality theory (i.e., March & Simon 1958); garbage can models; open systems; resource dependency; various types of new institutional theory, loose coupling, and decoupling; population ecology; the literature on interorganizational networks; approaches to organizational culture; group learning theory; Coase’s theory of the firm; basic IO theory; transaction cost economics a la Williamson.

Political sociology

The Federalist papers; Weber on organizations, the state, and mass politics; Marx & Engels on revolutionary politics; Dahl on pluralism; Italian political theory by Gaetano, Pareto, and Gramsci; Downs, the median voter theorem, and spatial models; public choice theory & the Virginia school; theories of voting; links between education and political participation a la Nye; public (Habermas) & counter-public (Fraser & Dawson ) models; ethnic minority politics; political cultures a la Dalton and Putnam; Lipset on political party structures; the rise of the modern state (e.g., Tilly & Spruyt); the state as disciplinary institution (e.g., Foucault); colonization and decolonization; the transition into and away from socialism; the organizational
state model; recent writings on globalization (e.g., Sassen) and the politics of neo-liberalism (Prasad); literature on the construction and behavior of the welfare state.

Social movements: Marx, Lenin and Mao on communist movement theory; Gurr & expectations; rational choice models, especially tipping point models; political opportunity structures; recruitment studies, especially network recruitment models; the resource mobilization model; the life cycle of a movement – i.e., Tarrow; framing; the “new” social movements; revolutionary politics – Moore, Skocpol, Goldstone, and Goodwin; rhetorical and cultural aspects of movements a la Jaspers; the professional movement sector – Mayer & Zald; movements targeting organizations – Binder, Rojas, and Lounsboury; spatial ecology of movement a la Zhao; diffusion of tactics and movements across time & space – Soule. Read lots of histories of political movements.

**Sociology of education**

Durkheim’s Moral Education & Evolution of Educational Thought; Willard Waller; the Wisconsin model; Becker on school as job skill investment; Arrow on schooling as labor market signal; Bidwell on school organization and moral order; Lorti on teachers; Johnson on school organization; Meyer on education as an institution; Dreeben on classroom organization; the literature on the rise of mass public education; Coleman and Bryk on schools and communities; Eder on school cultures, friendship, and gender; literature on tracking and the internal stratification of schools (Gamoran, Lucas, etc); Ogbu on race in schools; critical education history by Cuban, Tyack & Appel; Bourdieu & DiMaggio on school and cultural capital; Kranton & Akerlof on school identities; the new literature on school choice.

Higher education: Burton Clark’s higher education book; Clark Kerr on the multiversity; Parson’s functionalist theory of the university; Brint and Karabel’s analysis of community colleges; the college choice literature; the literature on the internal stratification of the professoriat, including Bourdieu’s *Homo Academicus*; Card and Krueger on college effects on income; Karabel on standardized testing; Allen & Feigen et al., on race and the college experience; the Bok books on affirmative action; Massey on minorities in college.

**Sociology of knowledge & science**

Mannheim; Marx on historical consciousness; Berger & Luckmann; Schutz on phenomenology; Searle on the construction of social reality; Wittgenstein on games and social life; Kuhn on scientific revolutions; Feyeraband on pragmatism; postmodern theories of knowledge; Latour on practice; Merton on the emergence of science; Ben-David on the scientific profession; Crane & invisible colleges; the literature on research specialties; the strong sociology of science program a la Bloor; Gieryn on scientific boundaries & truth spots; feminist critiques of science; Fuchs on the social organization of scientific work; empirical studies of scientific careers a la Long; Collins on sociology of philosophy & intellectual rituals; Gross on intellectual movements; lots of historical studies on the sciences and humanities.
Mathematical Sociology

Calculus (differential, integral, ODEs & vector calculus), linear algebra and probability; basic statistics – hypothesis testing, OLS, and elementary categorical data analysis; advanced statistical techniques – Bayesian analysis, event history/hazard models, simultaneous equation & structural equation models, log linear methods and missing data techniques; basic stochastic processes – Poisson models, arrival processes, Markov chains, and Monte carlo methods; network analysis – matrix representations, graphs and bipartite graphs, centrality, density, clustering, balance in signed graphs, graph diameter, p* models, dyad and triad census, block models, different types of networks such as cliques, trees and small worlds; game theory – utility theory, expected utility, Nash equilibrium, games of imperfect information, signalling theory, subgame perfect equilibria, repeated games, tit for tat strategies; agent based simulations – the Axelord tournament, the garbage can, the beer game, the hypercycles model, the Schelling model, and the game of Life. You should learn how to program in a computer language really well.