

CULTURE

SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



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1988-89 CULTURE SECTION

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CULTURE SECTION NOT A MARGINAL SECT by Richard A. Peterson

Two concerns expressed at the founding of the Culture Section were that the section might become a small clique of people with shared interests at the margin of sociology.

First, the section has grown rapidly so that now, less than three years after the section's founding, there are only three sections that are clearly larger, Medical, Sex/Gender, and Organizations/Occupations. The Culture section is presently with five other sections in the 500-600 member-range. (For details see the accompanying table.)

Second, with the annotated membership list that was generated from the information sheet in the last newsletter (Now available from John Ryan; see p. 3 below for details.) and the more in-depth questionnaire of Liah Greenfeld on page 3-4 below, it will be possible to see in detail whether section members form a clique sharing interests at the margin of sociology.

Meanwhile, information generated by the ASA office on the degree of overlap in section memberships provides good preliminary evidence on this second concern. About 50% of all ASA members belong to sections and most of these belong to more than one. The patterns of choices thus created give a picture of which interests tend to go together. Every pair of possible mutual memberships is chosen by at least a few sociologists, but the degree of co-choice varies widely. At the low extreme less than one percent of those in the Peace and War section are also in the Population section, and less than one percent of those in the Medical Sociology section are also in the section for World Systems. As can be seen from the accompanying table, the lowest degree of Culture section-members overlap, two percent, is with the Population section and the section on the Environment. Asking how many sections each section shares at least 10% of its members with provides another measure of isolation. This figure comprises the middle column of the accompanying table. The section on Crime, Law, & Deviance is clearly the most isolated, having no overlaps that reach even 10%.

Turning to the question of close association, five sections have overlaps of at least 10% with seven other sections. Culture has overlaps of at least 10% with four other sections. Going to the extreme of overlap, three pairs of sections have at least 30% overlap in membership. These are Family with Sex & Gender, Aging with Medical, and Social Psychology with Emotions. But what of the Culture section? The four greatest overlaps are with Theoretical Sociology (21%), Comparative & Historical (19%), Sex & Gender (12%), and Political Sociology (10%). The section on Emotions and on Organizations & Occupations follow closely with nine percent each. These data suggest that the Culture section is loosely connected to a large number of sections representing a wide range of interests and orientations in sociology.

OVERLAPPING SECTION MEMBERSHIPS	Members 1/16/89	#	> 10%	% Joint Membership With Culture
Culture	549	4		100.0
Undergraduate Ed.	424	4		4.9
Methodology	442	6		4.5
Medical Soc.	1121	1		5.8
Crime, Law, Deviance	496	0		3.1
Soc. of Education	393	3		4.7
Family	547	3		5.3
Organ. & Occ.	803	2		9.3
Theoretical Soc.	542	7		21.5
Sex & Gender	882	3		12.2
Community & Urban	352	5		5.6
Social Psychology	501	7		8.2
Peace & War	222	7		3.3
Environmental	297	3		2.0
Marxist	409	7		5.3
Sociological Practice	403	4		3.8
Population	408	3		2.0
World System	377	2		5.1
Aging	501	3		3.8
Collective Behavior	361	6		8.4
Racial & Ethnic	487	3		8.0
Comparative & Historical	495	7		18.6
Political Soc.	501	6		10.2
Asian/Asian American	286	2		4.9
Emotions	319	6		9.7
Knowledge & Science	297	5		6.0



CULTURE: CREATED AND CONSEQUENTIAL
Richard A. Peterson Vanderbilt University



One of the truly important advances in human potential is the realization that language, norms, values, beliefs, and expressive symbols are not preordained, or given, or natural, that all the elements of culture are creations of the human mind. In the words of Clifford Geertz (1973:5), "man is an animal suspended in a web of significance he himself has created."

This realization was not made in a flash. Rather it can be traced by stages through the works of the Greeks, the great religions, and through enlightenment philosophers to present-day humanities and social science. Nor has the evolution of the realization been linear. There have been many periods of reaction when political and religious authorities, fearing the excesses of anomie and hedonism that sometimes come with greater popular enlightenment, remystify the elements of culture reimposing ritualistic obedience to tribal, ethnic, national, ideological, or religious dogma.

The "createdness" of culture has been confirmed and further explicated in a number of recent lines of research. Five will be noted by way of example. First, ostensibly venerable traditions such as Scottish kilts and the British royal ceremonial have been found to be quite recent inventions (Hobsbawm & Ranger 1983). Second, DiMaggio (1982) has shown that the aesthetic and moral distinction between fine art and popular culture was created in the latter part of the 19th century and came to serve quite narrow class interests. Third, focusing more closely on the elevation of the novel from "popular culture" into the canon of "fine art" literature, Tuchman (1988) has demonstrated that the contributions of women were deliberately discredited. Fourth, Schudson (1978), Gans (1979), Gitlin (1980), Altheide & Johnson (1980), Nimmo & Combs (1983), and others drawing on data from a range of contexts, have detailed how the press and broadcast media act not simply to report the news but to create it as well. Finally, I have demonstrated how literature (1985) and popular music (1989) are shaped more by the constraints of the book and music industries respectively than by the interplay of creators with consumers.

With such useful empirical studies being regularly produced, the crying need now is for theories, theories that integrate what is known (cf. DiMaggio 1987 for one beginning) and clearly enunciate the dynamics of the culture creation process. The most completely developed and empirically grounded contemporary theoretical statement in the sociology of culture is that of Pierre Bourdieu (cf. 1984) and his colleagues who follow Weber in focusing on the role of culture in the perpetuation of social stratification and the distinctions between groups. Contemporary theories dealing with the alternative Durkheimian cultural focus on integration through the "conscience collective" are only just now being enunciated. One problem with these formulations is that culture is treated in a way that tends to remystify it. Wuthnow (1987) for example, says sociologists should not study the meaning of symbols but then infuses the quest for meaning into the rest of his analysis. Another problem with the new theories of integration through culture is that they tend to turn a blind eye to the growing cumulation of research findings. This is exemplified by Alexander (1988:1) who says "In sociology there is, as yet, scarcely any cultural analysis at all." Ignoring the research cited above, there is a growing number of studies focusing directly on the problem of cultural integration. See for example, Bellah et al (1985) and Namenwirth & Weber (1987).

The development of theory is not just of academic concern, because, while human society is now rapidly becoming more interdependent, cultural distinctions everywhere are divisive. In this country ethnic, racial, lifestyle, religious, and other cultural differences set people off against each other, and around the world entire nations from Northern Ireland to Sri Lanka are rent asunder along the lines of culture-fueled civil distinctions. Understanding the role of culture in such conflicts is an essential step in quelling them.

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 Alexander, Jeffrey C. 1988 Durkheimian Sociology: Culture Studies. "Introduction." pp. 1-22. Cambridge University Press.
 Altheide, David E. & John M. Johnson 1980 Bureaucratic Propaganda. Allyn Bacon.
 Bellah, Robert N., Richard Madsen, William M. Sullivan, Ann Swidler, and Steven M. Tipton 1985 Habits of the Heart. Harper & Row.
 Bourdieu, Pierre 1984 Distinction. Harvard University Press.
 DiMaggio, Paul 1982 "Cultural entrepreneurship in nineteenth century Boston" Media Culture & Society 4:33-50, 303-322.
 1987 "Classification in art," American Sociological Review 52: 440-455.
 Gans, Herbert J. 1979 Deciding What's News. Random House.
 Geertz, Clifford 1973 The Interpretation of Cultures. Basic Books.
 Gitlin, Todd 1980 The Whole World is Watching. University of California Press.
 Hobsbawm, Erik & Terence Ranger 1983 The Invention of Culture. Cambridge University Press.
 1989 "Why 1955? Explaining the advent of rock and roll." Popular Music in press.
 Namenwirth, Zvi & Robert Weber 1987 Dynamics of Culture. Allen & Unwin.
 Nimmo, Dan & James E. Combs 1983 Mediated Political Realities. Longman.
 Peterson, Richard A. 1985 "Six constraints on the production of literary works." Poetics 14: 45-67.
 Schudson, Michael 1978 Discovering the News. Basic Books.
 Schwartz, Michael H. 1988 Creating Faulkner's Reputation: The Politics of Literary Criticism. University of Tennessee Press.
 Tuchman, Gaye 1988 Editing Women Out: Victorian Novelists, Publishers and Social Change. Yale University Press.
 Wuthnow, Robert 1987 Meaning and Moral Order: Explorations in Cultural Analysis. University of California Press.

June 12-16. "Sociology, Public Policy and the Arts" session of the International Institute of Sociology meeting in Rome. Contact Peter Etkorn. Bitnet C1732@UMSLVMA or Sociology, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO 63121.

June 17-29. "1789-1989: Music, History, Democracy" Conference on the occasion of the Bicentennial of the French Revolution. Sponsored by the International Association for the Study of Popular Music. Organized by Antoine Hennion in Paris (address shown on the right) or contact Charles Hamm, Music, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH 03755.

June 23-24. International Conference on Visual Studies of Society. Amsterdam, Holland. Contact Steve Gold. Sociology, Whittier College, Whittier CA 90608.

June 28-30. "Symbolics of Leadership" organized by the Conference on Organizational Symbolism. Fontainebleau, France. Papers by March 1 to Susan Schneider, INSEAD, Bd. de Constance, 77305 Fontainebleau, France.

August 9-13. American Sociological Association meetings in San Francisco. The Culture Section sessions are scheduled for the final day, Sunday, August 13. Please plan accordingly. Gary Fine is the organizer of Section sessions. See Issue 3.1 and 3.4 for details.

October 4-7. International Conference on Culture and Communication. Philadelphia. Contact Sari Thomas. Institute of Culture and Communication, Temple U., Philadelphia, PA 19122. (215) 787-8725.

October 5-7. Popular Culture Association in the South. Atlantic Beach, FL. Abstracts by May 1 to Elizabeth Bell, English, U. of South Carolina, Aiken, SC 29801.

October 6-8. Fifteenth Annual Social Theory, Politics and the Arts Conference. Toronto. Send submissions to Joseph G. Green, Dept. of Performing Arts, York University, North York, Ontario M3J 1P3 Canada.

October 12-15. Society for History of Technology Annual Meeting. Sacramento, CA. Send submissions to Arthur L. Greil, Bitnet FGREIL@CERAMICS, or Alfred University, Box 545, Alfred NY 14802.

October 20-22. Society for Applied Sociology. Denver. Contact Penelope Canan, Sociology, University of Denver, Denver, CO 80208.

November 13-16. Society for Utopian Studies Annual Meeting. Pacific Grove, CA. Contact by June 30, Lyman Sargent. Political Science, U. of Mo, St. Louis, MO 63121

November 16-18. American Society for Theater Research conference on "Theater and Politics," Williamsburg, Va. Contact Gary Cima/ Department of English/ Georgetown U./ Washington DC 20057. (202) 687-4533.

July 9-13, 1990. XII World Congress of Sociology, Madrid, Spain. For details of the Arts Research Committee, see right-hand column.

July 31- August 4. ISME Seminar on Music Education in the Changing Media Landscape. Vienna, Austria. Send two copies of complete text to Irgard Bontinck/ IMRID/ Metternichgasse 12/ A-1030 Vienna, Austria.



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INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
XII WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY MADRID, JULY 1990
RESEARCH COMMITTEE 37. SOCIOLOGY OF ART

Get paper abstracts and outlines to the appropriate organizer by SEPTEMBER 1 at the LATEST.

University of Sydney, Dept. of Studies
N.S.W. 20006 Australia

II. Sociology of Artistic Reception
Jeffrey A. Halley
CUNY Graduate Center, Social Sciences
33 West 42nd Street, New York, NY

III. Insider versus Outsider Art
Vera L. Zolberg
Department of Sociology
New School for Social Research
65 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003

IV. Cultural Capital in Theory and Practice

Nashville, TN 37235 NC 27709

V. Politics and Art
Jeffrey C. Goldfarb
Department of Sociology
New School for Social Research
65 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003

VI. Politics and Artistic Institutions
Phillippe Urfalino
CNRS Centre de Sociologie des Organisations
54 Boulevard Raspail
7570 Paris cedex 06, France

Artistic Professions and Labor Markets

Ecole Nationale Supérieure
62, Boulevard Saint-Michel
75006 Paris, France

and
Pierre-Michel Menger
Centre de Sociologie des Arts
54 Boulevard Raspail
75270 Paris Cedex 06 France

Joint Session with
L'Association de la Langue Francaise
Andre Ducret
Universite de Geneve
Geneva, Switzerland

WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HELP

Help Wanted is our newest networking service for section members. What do you need that other section members might be able to provide? Send your request to Liah Greenfeld, or Pete Peterson. Information, data, citations, contacts in special fields, semester switching, or even ... Try us.

Monika Reuter-Echols invites all materials useful for the projected ASA Teaching Resource Center publication: Teaching Sociology Using Song Lyrics. What works, what doesn't. Send to: Department of Sociology/ SS 340/ State University/ Albany NY 12222.

Emanuel Levy Papers are sought for an anthology dealing with the role of women in shaping contemporary American culture to be titled Women Make a Difference. For details write: Department of Sociology/ Wellesley College/ Wellesley, MA 10023.

WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED

Seven books from the University of Illinois Press (1989):

Steven A. Reiss. City Games: The Evolution of American Urban Society and the Rise of Sports. Why city space differentiated into three types of game areas - private athletic and country clubs; semipublic arenas, ball parks, race tracks and poolrooms; and public city parks, schoolyards, and superdomes.

Ellen Koskoff, ed. Women and Music in Cross-Cultural Perspective. Ethnomusicology. Authors explore the role of gender in the making of music and music as a representation of gender relations in the society.

Patricia Curran. Grace Before Meals: Food Ritual and Body Discipline in Convent Culture. Studies the quite different impact of Vatican II on two different congregations of women which did and did not find new rituals to replace those of self-control, self-denial, silence and humility.

Alessandro Silj et al. East of "Dallas": The European Challenge to American Television. Why the TV evening soap was such a hit in Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, and Britain why locally produced soaps have had only limited appeal.

Phillip Drummond and Richard Paterson, eds. Television and Its Audience: International Research Perspectives. Review of current audience research on the role of television in Europe and the third world.

Telotte, J.P. Voices in the Dark: The Narrative Patterns of Film Noir. For those of you of the younger set who think of the 50s as simpler, tranquil times...

Seven more from the University of North Carolina Press (1989):

Craig H. Roell. The Piano in America, 1890-1940. Thorough study of the place of the piano in American society from the perspective of the American piano industry. Sold as a boon to home-based Victorian consumer culture, achieved mass success with the player-piano, ruined by the competition of radio and the phonograph, and finally, in the 1930s found renewed sales (as an upright) selling the idea of home practice as an education for work.

Cynthia S. Jordan. Second Stories: The Politics of Language, Form, and Gender in Early American Fictions. Counterposes white male elite American writers' focus on the image of Patriarchal guidance and guardianship with their emergent second romantic focus on women as representing the sociopolitically oppressed.

James H. Merrell. The Indians' New World: Catawbas and Their Neighbors from European Contact through the Era of Removal. How these "North Carolina" Indians adapted to life in the "new world" that was created by European "discovery" and settlement.

Mary Lee Nolan and Sidney Nolan. Christian Pilgrimage in Modern Western Europe. Geographer's study of the patterns of pilgrimage to 6,000 active shrines in Western Europe.

R.B. Kershner. Joyce, Bakhtin, and Popular Literature: Chronicles of Disorder. Uses the theories of Mikhail Bakhtin to sort out James Joyce's numerous allusions to contemporary popular fiction as well as to his own prior writings.

From Unwin Hyman (1988):

Thomas Doherty. Teenagers and Teenpics: The Juvenilization of American Movies in the 1950s. The commercial, demographic, and sociological origins of "Gidget" and "I was a Teenage Werewolf!" et al.

James W. Carey. Communication as Culture: Essays on Media and Society. Provocative collection of essays by the person who has been instrumental in putting culture into communications studies.

John Fiske, Bob Hodge, and Graeme Turner. Myths of Oz: Reading Australian Popular Culture. The creation of a user aesthetic. They look at genres and themes in terms of the contexts in which popular culture is consumed - pubs, home, beach, camping.

Angela McRobbie, ed. Zoot Suits and Second-Hand Dresses: An Anthology of Fashion and Music. Useful collection of brief essays by mostly English journalists and academics on the youth cultures of the 60s.

Helen Baehr and Gillian Dyer. Boxed In: Women and Television. How women are represented on, and the work they do behind the screen.

Rosemary Betteerton, ed. Looking On: Images of Femininity in the Visual Arts and Media. How depictions of women in ads, fine art, fashion mags, and pornography continue to influence commonly held perceptions of femininity and female sexuality.

Janice Winship. Inside Women's Magazines. Not a content analysis or reading of... It is a study of the influences that have shaped women's magazines since the 1950s. Should be called Behind or Making Women's Magazines.

Rozsika Parker and Griselda Pollack, eds. Framing Feminism: Art and the Women's Movement, 1970-1985. A richly illustrated history of the contemporary (British) women's art movement.

From U.M.I. Research Press (1989):

Arlene Raven, Cassandra L. Lauger, and Joanna Frueh, eds. Feminist Art Criticism: An Anthology. An American anthology parallel to the last cited work bringing together articles written over the past decade.

Donald Kuspit. The New Subjectivism: Art in the 1980s. See an art critic create an aesthetic looking at the work of the likes of Schnabel and Warhol.

Margot Lovejoy. Postmodern Currents: Art and Artifacts. 'The Age of Electronic Media. Pinpoints the moment when electronic technologies... the construction of modernism - the day that Western Civ. was no...

Lucy Patricia Henry. Punk Rock and the Historical Avant-Garde. Long on the New York origins of the music that the London fanzines and Malcolm McLaren capitalized.

Michael Renov. Hollywood's Wartime Woman: Representation and Ideology. Detailed look at 170 woman-centered Hollywood films of the WWII era.

From University Press of America (1989):

Marilyn J. Young and Michael K. Launer. Flights of Fancy, Flight of Doom: KAL 007 and Soviet-American Rhetoric. Traces the dialectical interaction between US and Russian propaganda efforts in the aftermath of the 1983 Korean airliner downing. How the Americans gave the Soviet government the basis for a plausible justification for the actions of its Air Force.

Albert Henigway. Ira Hayes: Pima Marine. Deconstructing a myth. Tells way the American battle flag was twice raised over the island of Iwo Jima and of the alcoholic descent of one of the heroic American marines that climbed the mountain to wave the flag that day, Pima Indian, Ira Hayes.

Virginia E. Miller, ed. The Role of Gender in Precolumbian Art and Architecture. Icons attend to the mythological, religious, and historical importance of women in Precolumbian societies.

John Cribb. A Field Guide to Interstate 95: A Traveler's Companion to the History, Geography and Trivia that Lie Beneath the Nation's Busiest Highway. From Houlton, Maine to Miami Beach for those who once got their "kicks" on route 66.

David L. Hull. Science as a Process: An Evolutionary Account of the Social and Conceptual Development of Science. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Nice guys don't win Nobel prizes, and Hull asserts, if all scientists were nice guys there would be no new science.

Mary Ann Doane. The Desire to Desire: The Woman's Film of the 1940s. Bloomington, IN: University of Indiana Press. An accounting of the psychoanalytic repression of women in Hollywood films.

Christopher Saunders. The Making of the South African Past: Major Historians on Race and Class. Savage, MD: Barnes & Noble. Fascinating account of history as ideology.

Andre Lange and Jean-Luc Renaud. The Future of the European Audiovisual Industry. Manchester UK: Haigh & Hochland. Chock full of information on the laws, ownership policy, production and distribution of TV and film in each of the countries of Europe.

Barry Lazell, ed. Rock Movers and Shakers: An A-Z of the People Who Made Rock Happen. New York: Billboard Books. Bios on 1000 musicians, bands, producers, and entrepreneurs who have had an impact on the rock music enterprise.

Fred Bronson. The Billboard Book of NUMBER ONE HITS: 2nd Edition, Revised and Enlarged. New York: Billboard Books. A page-long essay about each weekly Number One Hot 100 song and its performers from 1955 through March, 1988.

David R. Pichaske. A Generation in Motion: Popular Music and Culture in the Sixties. Granite Falls, MN: Ellis Press. An evocation. The author of Freshman Comp: What is This Shit? does it again.

17 American Council for the Arts books (1988-89): No "ArtIndustry"? Read on.

Milton C. Cummings, Jr. and Richard S. Katz, eds. The Patron State: Government and the Arts in Europe, North America, and Japan. Well researched study shows the diversity of policy configurations.

Margaret Wyszomirski and Pat Clubb, eds. The Cost of Culture: Patterns and Prospects of Private Arts Patronage. How to support the traditional bourgeois elite arts when the rising generation of affluent baby-boomers don't like elite art or use it as a status marker.

Milton C. Cummings, Jr. and Mark Davidson Schuster, eds. Who's to Pay for the Arts? The International Search for Models of Support. Will governments provide the safety net?

Margaret J. Wyszomirski, ed. Congress and the Arts: A Precarious Alliance? Knowledgeable essays affirm the "Precarious" and bring into question "Alliance" and the question mark of the title.

C. Richard Swain, ed. The Modern Muse: The Support and Condition of Artists. The essays show that, despite all of the rhetoric of the books above, by far the greatest donors to the arts are the artists themselves.

Why We Need the Arts: 8 Quotable Speeches by Leaders in Education, Government, Business, and the Arts. Government, corporate and foundation arts- leaders speak.

Livingston L. Biddle. Our Government and the Arts: A Perspective from the Inside. 554 pages of stories about the big-art, big-government tug of war by the past Chair of the National Endowment of the Arts. Fleashes out the ideology of Why We Need... above.

David B. Pankratz and Kevin V. Mulcahy, eds. The Challenge to Reform Arts Education: What Role Can Research Play? Reports of a wide range of current research.

Judith H. Balfe and Joni Cherbo Heine, eds. Arts Education Beyond the Classroom. The arts won't survive without the experience of arts in the home.

Charles Fowler. Can We Rescue the Arts for America's Children? Coming to our Senses 10 Years Later. "Can" is one thing, "Will" is quite another.

National Endowment for the Arts. Toward Civilization: A Report on Arts Education. This report mandated by Congress and prepared by the National Endowment for the Arts proposes an arts education curriculum K-12. Just whistling "dixie."

John McLaughlin, ed. Toward a New Era in Arts Education: The Interlochen Symposium. More lesson plans.

Bradley G. Morison and Julie Gordon Dalgleish. Waiting in the Wings: A Larger Audience for the Arts and How to Develop It. You are proposing an unknown product to a suspicious target. Promotes SELL, "Strategy to Encourage Lifelong Learning." Increased cunes of 44% in just two seasons reported!

Michael Blimes and Ron Sproat. More Dialing, More Dollars: 12 Steps to Successful Telemarketing. Promises to increase contributors, members, or subscribers to the arts by 30-50%.

Stephen Langley and James Abruzzo. Jobs in Arts and Media Management: What They Are and How to Get One! As the ad says, "why not take advantage of this unbelievable blend of inside knowledge."

E. Arthur Prieve, ed. Survey of Arts Administration Training: 1989-90. Valuable data set.

Louis Harris and Associates. Americans and the Arts V: A Nationwide Survey of Public Opinion. If you believed the inflated estimates of his earlier surveys, this one will really worry you. Now leisure time is down and so is arts participation.

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