

## Chapters in Cultural Sociology – Sociology of Performance (SOCb 2554)

<b>Course description</b>	<p>Arguably, signs, symbols and meanings have always been the province of sociologists but not always their primary concern. Many believe we have finally taken or are in the midst of taking a “cultural turn” in contemporary sociology. Problems of meaning, discourse, aesthetics, value, textuality, narrativity, and performativity, topics traditionally within the purview of humanists, have come to the fore as sociologists increasingly emphasize the role of meanings, symbols, cultural frames and cognitive schema in their theorization of social processes and institutions.</p> <p>This course will focus on the sociology of performance and its contribution to the cultural sociological perspective. We will start with classical accounts on performativity from Austin and Goffman and proceed to contemporary theorists and issues, for example Judith Butler and the performance of Gender or Jeffrey Alexander's account on social performances in politics. The aim of this course is to provide knowledge about performances and performativity in different spheres of social life as well as to provide analytical tools for the empirical analysis of different social phenomena.</p>
<b>I</b>	<b>Organizational Meeting</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>Conference Break</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>Introduction to Cultural Sociology</b>
Required Readings	<p>Back, Les, Andy Bennett, Laura Desfor Edles, Margaret Gibson, David Inglis, Ronald Jacobs, and Ian Woodward (2012): <i>Cultural Sociology. An Introduction</i>. Malden; Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, pp. 19-42.</p> <p>Cordero, Rodrigo, Francisco Carballo, and José Ossandón (2008). “Performing Cultural Sociology. A Conversation with Jeffrey Alexander.” <i>European Journal of Social Theory</i> 11 (4): 523-542.</p>
<b>IV</b>	<b>Performative Speech Acts</b>
Required Readings	<p>Austin, John L. (1962): <i>How to Do Things with Words</i>. Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp. 1-24.</p> <p>Bourdieu, Pierre (1992): <i>Language and Symbolic Power</i>. Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 104-116.</p>
Presentation	Derrida, Jacques (1982): “Signature Event Context”. In: <i>Margins of Philosophy</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 307-330.
<b>V</b>	<b>Performances in Everyday Life</b>
Required Readings	Goffman, Erving (1959): “Performances”. In: <i>The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life</i> . New York: Anchor Books, pp. 17-76.
Presentation	Goffman, Erving (1967): “On Face-Work. An Analysis of Ritual Elements in Social Interaction”. In: <i>Interaction Ritual. Essays in Face-to-Face Behavior</i> . New Brunswick: Aldine Transaction, 5-45.
<b>VI</b>	<b>Social Performance</b>
	Alexander, Jeffrey (2006): “Social Performance between Ritual and Strategy”. In: <i>Social Performance. Symbolic Action, Cultural Pragmatics, and Ritual</i> , edited by Jeffrey C. Alexander, Bernhard Giesen and Jason L. Mast. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 29-90.
Presentation	<p>Turner, Victor (1980): “Social Dramas and Stories about Them”. In: <i>Critical Inquiry</i> 7(1), 141-168. [AND]</p> <p>Woods, Eric Taylor (2013): “A Cultural Approach to a Canadian Tragedy. The Indian Residential Schools as a Sacred Enterprise”. In: <i>International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society</i> 26(2), 173-187.</p>

<b>VII</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Politics as Performance</b>
Required Readings	Alexander, Jeffrey (2011): "Social, Political, Cultural, and Performative". In: <i>Performance and Power</i> . Cambridge: Polity, pp. 92-103. Alexander, Jeffrey (2016): "Performance and Politics. President Obama's Dramatic Reelection in 2012". <i>TDR: The Drama Review</i> 60(4): 130-142. Havel, Vaclav (2011/1997): "Politics And Theatre". Project Syndicate.
Presentations	Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2011): <i>The Performative Revolution in Egypt. An Essay in Cultural Power</i> . London; New York: Bloomsbury Academic.
<b>XI</b>	<b>Populist Political Performances</b>
Required Readings	Moffitt, Benjamin & Simon Tormey (2014): "Rethinking Populism. Politics, Mediatisation and Political Style". In: <i>Political Studies</i> 62(2), 381-397. Fordahl, Clayton (2020): "Political Performance, Profanation, and Mundane Interaction. A Revised Cultural Sociology of the 2016 American Presidential Election". <i>International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society</i> .
Presentations	Gauna, Anibal F. (2016): "Populism, Heroism, and Revolution. Chávez's Cultural Performances in Venezuela, 1999–2012", <i>American Journal of Cultural Sociology</i> 6(1): 37-59.
<b>X</b>	<b>Gender as Performance</b>
Required Readings	Butler, Judith (1985): "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution. An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory". <i>Theatre Journal</i> 40(4): 519-531. Nussbaum, Martha (1999): "Professor of Parody". In: <i>The New Republic</i> .
Presentations	Garfinkel, Harold (1967): "Passing and Managed Achievement of a Sex Status in an 'Intersexed' Person". In: <i>Studies in Ethnomethodology</i> . Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 116-185.
<b>XI</b>	<b>Performativity of Things</b>
Required Readings	Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2020): "The Performativity of Objects", seminar at the <i>Center for Cultural Sociology</i> , Bar-Ilan University (Israel), May 6, 2020; <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=porymkHjwqQ">YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=porymkHjwqQ</a> Latour, Bruno (1991): "The Berlin Key or How to Do Words with Things". In: Graves-Brown, Paul (ed.), <i>Matter, Materiality and Modern Culture</i> . London: Routledge, pp. 10-21.
Presentation	Karen Barad. (2003): "Posthumanist Performativity. Toward an Understanding of How Matter Comes to Matter". <i>Signs</i> 28(3): 801-831.
<b>Winter Break</b>	
<b>XII</b>	<b>Economics and Performance</b>
Required Readings	MacKenzie, Donald A. (2007): „Is Economics Performative? Option Theory and the Construction of Derivative Markets". In: MacKenzie, Donald A., Fabian Muniesa & Lucia Siu (eds.): <i>Do Economists Make Markets? On the Performativity of Economics</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 54-86. Merton, Robert K. (1948): "The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy". <i>The Antioch Review</i> , 8(2): 193-210.
Presentations	Tognato, Carlo (2012): <i>Central Bank Independence: Cultural Codes and Symbolic Performance</i> . Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
<b>XIII</b>	<b>Cultural Performances</b>
Required Readings	Geertz, Clifford (2006): "Deep Play. Notes on the Balinese Cockfight". In: <i>The Interpretation of Cultures. Selected Essays</i> . New York: Basic Books, pp. 412-453. Barthes, Roland (1972): "The World of Wrestling". In: <i>Mythologies</i> . New York: Hill and Wang, pp. 15-25.
Presentation	Stephenson, Barry (2010): <i>Performing the Reformation</i> . Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.

<b>Requirements for Passing the Course</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Six response essays (2-3 pages, two of them submitted before the reading week, five before Christmas) – 60%</li> <li>2. Participation in the discussion – 10%</li> <li>3. Presentation in class OR final essay (6-8 pages) - 30%</li> </ol>
<b>Additional Literature</b>	<p>Abercrombie, Nicholas and Brian Longhurst (1998): <i>Audiences. A Sociological Theory of Performance and Imagination</i>. London; Thousand Oaks: Sage.</p> <p>Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2010): <i>The Performance of Politics. Obama's Victory and the Democratic Struggle for Power</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Alexander, Jeffrey (2011): <i>Performance and Power</i>. Cambridge: Polity.</p> <p>Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2017) <i>The Drama of Social Life</i>. Cambridge; Malden: Polity.</p> <p>Alexander, Jeffrey C., Bernhard Giesen and Jason L. Mast (2006, ed.): <i>Social Performance. Symbolic Action, Cultural Pragmatics, and Ritual</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Alexander, Jeffrey C., &amp; Jaworsky, N. Bernadette (2014) <i>Obama Power</i>. Cambridge; Malden: Polity.</p> <p>Barad Karen (2007): <i>Meeting the Universe Halfway. Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning</i>: Duke University Press.</p> <p>Bell, Elizabeth (2008): <i>Theories of Performance</i>. Thousand Oaks; London: Sage.</p> <p>Eyerman, Ron (2008): <i>The Assassination of Theo Van Gogh. From Social Drama to Cultural Trauma</i>. Durham: Duke University Press.</p> <p>Fischer-Lichte, Erika (2008): <i>The Transformative Power of Performance. A New Aesthetics</i>. London: Routledge.</p> <p>Garfinkel, Harold (1956): "Conditions of Successful Degradation Ceremonies". In: <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 61(5), 420-424.</p> <p>Knoblauch, Hubert (2008): "The Performance of Knowledge. Pointing and Knowledge in Powerpoint Presentations". In: <i>Cultural Sociology</i> 2(1), 75-97.</p> <p>St John, Graham (2008, ed.): <i>Victor Turner and Contemporary Cultural Performance</i>. New York; Oxford: Berghahn Books.</p> <p>Rappaport, Roy A. (1999): <i>Ritual and Religion in the Making of Humanity</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Schechner, Richard (1990). <i>By Means of Performance. Intercultural Studies of Theatre and Ritual</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Tambiah, Stanley J. (1985): "A Performative Approach to Ritual". In: <i>Culture, Thought and Social Action. An Anthropological Perspective</i>. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. 123-166.</p> <p>Tognato, Carlo (2012): <i>Central Bank Independence: Cultural Codes and Symbolic Performance</i>. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Turner, Victor W. (1980): <i>The Ritual Process. Structure and Antistructure</i>. Cornell: Cornell University Press, 166-203.</p> <p>Turner, Victor W. (1986): <i>The Anthropology of Performance</i>. New York: PAJ.</p> <p>Turner, Victor W. (2004): <i>From Ritual to Theatre. The Human Seriousness of Play</i>. New York: PAJ.</p> <p>Wagner-Pacifi, Robin Erica (1986): <i>The Moro Morality Play. Terrorism as Social Drama</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.</p>