

SOC 741: The Individual and Social Structure

Sociology of Story Telling

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Most things in society are achieved in and through talk, in conversation. While talk has been ignored by sociology, Harvey Sacks and Emmanuel Schegloff discovered in the '60s there is a discoverable and replicable sequential structure to conversation and other kinds of talk.

This course is focused on the sequential structure of talk and how to find it. Moreover, it will pay attention to the “tell-able” things we say about people.

The stories we tell about people are the topic of this seminar.

8/26/10 – The story about Harvey Sacks and the course I took with him on story telling. Introduction of students and a description of the course. Hand out of articles.

9/2/10 – Presentation of articles. What is a tellable or storable? What is news for a recipient? Hand out articles.

9/9/10 – An examination of a story transcript. Presentation of articles. Distribution of articles.

9/16/10 – How a story emerges from an everyday conversation. Presentation of articles. Hand out articles.

9/23/10 – Presentation of articles. How to collect stories that the class can examine. What places are best to collect stories. The orthography of story transcription. Hand out articles.

9/30/10 – Presentation of articles. Presentation of collected stories. Class analysis of the stories. Hand out articles.

10/7/10 – Presentation of articles. Examination of transcripts and a critique of transcription methods.

10/14/10 – The story of the mall. Hand out articles.

10/21/10 – Student analysis of a story. First run. Presentation of articles.

10/28/10 – Student analysis of a story. First run.

11/4/10 - Student analysis of a story.

11/11/10 – Summary of student analyses.

11/18/10 – What can we learn from story telling and social structure?

11/25/10 – Thanksgiving, No Class.

12/2/10 – Final reading of student papers.

12/9/10 – Last Class. Evaluation and class party.

