

Agenda Sociology 929 Week 7
Weber/Marx Amalgams: Charles Tilly's *Durable Inequality*
October 17, 2006

The Overall Agenda

1. Does Tilly's framework actually explain anything? Is there a there there? [Rahul]
2. What happened to class? It seems to have virtually disappeared? [Rahul]

Categorical Inequality

3. Binary categories
 - Why do durable inequalities have to be organized as binary categories? why not fuzzy boundaries? [Michael]
 - Are there dangers to the binary categories? Do triads contradict the binary analysis? [Charity]
 - How and why do the binary categories appear in the first place? What is the role in symbolic classification in creating the categories? [Hsing-Mei]
4. Correspondence between interior & exterior boundaries/categories [Michael]
 - Do the causes work in both directions? [Michael]
 - Is transaction cost reduction the only explanation for this correspondence? [Michael]

Opportunity Hoarding

5. Exploitation & opportunity hoarding [Assaf, Joe, You-Geon]
 - Is this distinction always so clear? Does exploitation also involve hoarding?
 - Are these symmetric or is there some kind of primacy to exploitation? [Fabian]
 - Is opportunity hoarding really mainly confined to nonelite categories? [Joe]
 - Is opportunity hoarding the same as Weber's social closure? [Fabian]
6. Opportunity hoarding and unions: how should this be understood? (Jorge)

Methodological issues

7. Functionalism in Tilly's argument: how should this be understood? How important is it to the argument? Is there a weak form of the argument that relies less on functionalism? [Adam]
8. The collective vs individual approach to class and exploitation. [Rudolfo]
 - How are these different? What are the implications? [Rudolfo]
9. What is an organization in Tilly's analysis? Can a class position be considered an "organization"? [Sarhani]

Agency, Struggles & Transformation

10. Treatment of ideas & beliefs: "Mistaken beliefs reinforce exploitation, opportunity hoarding, emulation, and adaptation but exercise little independent influence on their initiation." [Charity, Joe]
11. Struggle and transformation
 - Where is the source of transformation/agency in Tilly's analysis? [Assaf]

Specific applications

12. gender: How does gender inequality work in Tilly's scheme? How does it arise? [Elizabeth]
13. How should Tilly's categories be used in intergenerational inequality analysis? In analysis of individual improvements in life chances? [Fabian, Ann]