

Sociology 621 Lecture 12. Outline. Complexities of Class Structure
October 17, 2011

I. The problem of “complexity”

1. Complexities in the character of locations
2. Complexities in how lives are linked to locations

II. The Middle Class

1. The Middle Class: a Double Problem:

- a. Level of abstraction problem
- b. Micro-Macro levels of analysis

2. Problematic cases: engineers, actors, teachers, athletes, white collar employees, etc.

3. Methodological issue in constructing a solution – Double constraint:

- a. Conceptual Constraints
- b. Empirical Constraints

4. General Character of my proposals:

version 1: a given location can be simultaneously in more than one class → contradictory class locations.

version 2: a given location can be simultaneously exploiter and exploited with respect to distinct mechanisms.

5. Attractiveness of these strategies

6. Problems of the strategies

- Contradictory Locations
- Multiple Exploitations

7. My current “solution” to the middle class

III. Other complexities

1. *Mediated locations*
2. *Career structure*
3. *Capital Ownership and the Class Character of Jobs*
4. *Unemployment/underemployment:* a dualistic structure of employment relations
5. *The State*
6. *Global Classes?*