

**Lecture 6. Sociology 621. February 6. Exploitation
OUTLINE**

I. PROLOGUE ON EXPLOITATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Exploitation does not capture the central moral issue in inequality
- To each according to need → potential exploitation of workers
- Exploitation is about antagonistic interests, not directly about justice

II. CLASSICAL MARXIST IDEAS ABOUT EXPLOITATION

1. The Labor Theory of Value: the basic idea in the classical theory

- The “commodity” – books/libraries
- Exchange: Use/exchange value. Problem: explaining relative value of heterogeneous commodities.
- Labor time as the measure of value
- A few details: abstract labor; socially necessary labor; direct/indirect labor

2. Objections

- Subjective theory of value
- Materialist critique: Sraffa; calorie theory of value

3. Exploitation

- Where do profits come from? (1) time preferences; 2) circulation; 3. Production of surplus
- Key insight: labor power as a commodity that generate value when it is used
- Labor, Labor power, the value of labor power, surplus value
- Rate of exploitation: $P = C+(V+S)$. $r = S/(C+V)$. $e = S/V$
- Absolute & relative surplus value: $S = L$ (length of working day) - V

III. RETHINKING EXPLOITATION

1. Exploitation vs. (nonexploitative) Oppression

- a) inverse interdependent welfare principle
- b) resource exclusion principle
- c) effort appropriation principle

nonexploitative oppression = a + b

exploitation = a + b + c

2. Exploitation & oppression: key sociological issue = the nature of power and dependency

Fundamental sociological insight about exploitation: Exploitation is a form of oppression that gives real power to the exploited because they have levers of resistance and struggle absent from brute oppression. This makes exploitative relations complex, explosive, dynamic -- it is why around exploitation whole systems of domination and containment are elaborated.

3. The moral bite of exploitation: *the saga of the Shmoo*

4. A note on EXPLOITATION and ALIENATION: *material interests and lived experiences.*

5. Extensions of the contrast of oppression & exploitation: sexual exploitation/oppression; cultural exploitation/oppression

6. Roemer's account of exploitation (time permitting)

- First approach: showing that exploitation can occur with only markets, no employers
- Withdrawal rules under different production games = abstract test for what I have called economic oppression
- Generalizing Roemer: different assets → different withdrawal rules