

**SOCIOLOGY 292**  
**SESSION #2**  
**DISCUSSION AGENDA**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2006**

**1. The Concept of Exploitation in Marx (You-Geon, Elizabeth, Joe, Johannes, Fabian, Rahul)**

- Basic definition, relation to labor and labor power (You-Geon)
- Status of the concept with respect to the definition of class: should class be *defined* in terms of exploitation? (Elizabeth, Joe)
- Explanatory role of exploitation: can exploitation explain motivations? (Elizabeth)
- What happens to “exploitation” if not only labor creates value (Johannes) What about exploitation through the process of exchange – the Walmart, Chinese worker problem? or through land rents? (Rahul, Joe, Fabian)

**2. Class structure and Class action (Adam, Michael, Rahul, Assaf)**

- Should class action be part of the definition? (Adam) Class-in-itself/class-for-itself distinction: which should ground the concept of class? (Michael) Why do we need a structural definition of class? (Rahul) Structural/forces of production in Cohen vs struggle definition in Elster – are these antithetical? (Michael)
- micro- vs macro levels of class analysis (individual vs collective) and the problem of deriving a motive force to move from the former to the latter (Assaf)

**3. Objective interests (Elizabeth)**

- The concept of class and objective interests: how are these connected? (Elizabeth)

**4. Class Mobility (Elizabeth, Ann)**

- class mobility and class definitions: does mobility undermine the concept? (Elizabeth, Ann)

**5. Elster’s account of endowments and class (Adrienne, Adam, Fabian)**

- how to understand Elsters endowments and compelled action formulation?

**6. Property ownership & Class: (Adrienne, Rahul, Charity)**

- Does ownership give us a good polarized concept? (Adrienne) What are the implications of Cohen’s caveat’s about ownership? (Rahul) How does land ownership figure in the concept of class? (Charity)

**7. Global context (charity)**

- how does this affect Marx’s class analysis? Does the concept lose relevance? (Charity)

**8. Metatheoretical questions**

- The Communist Manifesto is both a political and scientific document: how does the political vs scientific framing affect class analysis? (Rudolfo)
- are we talking about distinct concepts or different approaches to the same concept (Rahul)

**9. Miscellaneous**

- perhaps it is best to restrict class to capitalism and the wage-labor relation. (Jorge)