Behavioural Mechanisms in the Social Sciences

# Course readings for the course

## Why mechanisms?

Lecturer: Rodrigo Martinez

### Compulsory readings

Hedström, Peter, and Petri Ylikoski. 2010. ”Causal Mechanisms in the Social Sciences.” *Annual*

*Review of Sociology*.” 36:49-67

Ylikoski, P., 2021. Understanding the Coleman boat. *Research handbook on analytical sociology*, pp. 49-63.

Hedstrom, P., 2005. *Dissecting the social: On the principles of analytical sociology*. Cambridge University Press.

### Optional

Glennan, S., 2017. *The new mechanical philosophy*. Oxford University Press.

## Rational Choice Theory and Bounded Rationality / behavioural economics

Lecturer: Emmanuel Wittberg

### Required Readings

**Background readings to understand the big picture**

* Fourcade, M., Ollion, E., & Algan, Y. (2015). The Superiority of Economists. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 29(1), 89–114.
* Friedman, D., & Hechter, M. 1988. The Contribution of Rational Choice Theory to

Macrosociological Research. *Sociological Theory*, 6(2): 201-18.

**Classical rational choice à la a prominent economist (mainly assess the format of argumentation, it is strongly recommended not to take the equations too seriously 😊)**

* Acemoglu, D., & Verdier, T. (1998). Property Rights, Corruption and the Allocation of Talent: A General Equilibrium Approach. *The Economic Journal*, 108(450), 1381–1403.
* Acemoglu, D. (2005). Politics and economics in weak and strong states. *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 52(7), 1199–1226.

**Sociological rational choice**

* Breen, R. & Goldthorpe, J. (2003). Explaining Educational Differences: Towards a Formal Rational Action Theory. *Rationality and Society*, 9(3), 275-305.
* Bernburg, J. G. (2022). Collective Action and the Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: The Case of the Panama Papers Protest in Iceland. *European Sociological Review*, 38(2), 304–320.

**Behavioral economics**

* Kahneman, D., (2003). Maps of Bounded Rationality: Psychology for Behavioral Economics.

*American Economic Review*, 93(5), 1449-75.

* Schwartz, B., et al. (2002). Maximizing versus satisficing: Happiness is a matter of choice. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 83(5), 1178-1197.
* Allen, E. J., et al. (2017). Reference-Dependent Preferences: Evidence from Marathon Runners.

*Management Science*, 63(6), 1657-1672.

### Optional Background Readings

* Hedström, P. & Ylikoski P. (2014). Analytical Sociology and Rational Choice Theory, pp.157–70 in *Analytical Sociology: Actions, and Networks*. Gianluca Manzo (ed). John Wiley & Sons.

### Optional Advanced Readings

* Simon, H. (1990). Invariants of Human Behavior. *Annual Review of Psychology*,41(1), 1-19.
* Coleman, J. S. (1988). Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital. *The American Journal of Sociology*, *94*, 1–27.

## Fast and frugal heuristics

Lecturer: Alex (on-line)

**Reading list:**

* Todd, P. M. and Gigerenzer, G. (2003). Bounding rationality to the world. Journal of Economic Psychology, 24(2):143–165. **Bounded rationality**
* Gigerenzer, G. and Gaissmaier, W. (2011). Heuristic decision making. Annual Review of Psychology, 62(1):451–482. **Referent FFH paper**
* Gigerenzer, G., Hertwig, R. and Pachur, T. (2011). *Heuristics. The Foundations of Adaptative Behavior.* Oxford University Press. **Referent FFH manual**

**More:**

* Henrich, J. et al. (2001). In search of Homo Economicus: Behavioral experiments in 15 small-scale societies. AEA Papers and Proceedings, 91(2):73-78.
* Hutchinson, J. M.C. and Gigerenzer, G. (2005). Simple heuristics and rules of thumb: Where psychologists and behavioural biologists might meet. Behavioural Processes, 69(2):97–124
* Hertwig, R. and Herzog, S. M. (2009). Fast and frugal heuristics: Tools for social rationality. Social Cognition, 27(5):661–698.
* Gigerenzer, G. and Brighton, H. (2009). Homo heuristics: Why biased minds make better inferences. Topics in Cognitive Science, 1: 107-143.
* Katsikopoulos, K. V. (2011). Psychological heuristics for making inferences: Definition, performance, and the emerging theory and practice. Decision Analysis, 8(1):10–29
* Gigerenzer, G. (2015). On the supposed evidence for Libertarian Paternalism. Review of Philosophy and Psychology, 6:361-383.
* Gigerenzer, G. (2007). *Gut Feelings*. Penguin Books. **FFH divulgative book**

## Social psychology and identity

Lecturer: Srebrenka Letina

### Required:

Stryker, S., & Burke, P. J. (2000). The past, present, and future of an identity theory. *Social psychology quarterly*, 284-297.. – 12p.

Harmon-Jones, E., & Harmon-Jones, C. (2007). Cognitive dissonance theory after 50 years of development. *Zeitschrift für Sozialpsychologie*, *38*(1), 7-16. – 10p.

Hewstone, M., & Swart, H. (2011). Fifty‐odd years of inter‐group contact: From hypothesis to integrated theory. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, *50*(3), 374-386. – 7p.

Brewer, M. B. (1979). In-group bias in the minimal intergroup situation: A cognitive-motivational analysis. *Psychological bulletin*, *86*(2), 307. – 16.p

#### Books/chapters:

In *Computational Social Psychology*

Vallacher, R. R., Nowak, A., & Read, S. J. (2017). Rethinking Human Experience: The Promise of Computational Social Psychology. In *Computational Social Psychology* (pp. 3-12). Routledge. – 5p.

*Myers, D.G., & Twenge, J.M. (2021). Social psychology, 4th edition:*

Chapter 2: The self in social world (p.23-52)

Chapter 8: Group influence, p.194 -217

*Harkins, S. G., Williams, K. D., & Burger, J. M. (Eds.). (2017). The Oxford handbook of social influence. Oxford University Press.*

Chapter 5. On the trail of social comparison. 71-87

Chapter 26. The Echo Chamber. 3p.

### Optional:

#### Movies:

*The Stanford Prison Experiment (2015)*

*Experimenter: The Stanley Milgram Story (2015)*

#### Readings:

Chapter 6: Conformity and Obedience (p.134 - 166) in *Myers, D.G., & Twenge, J.M. (2021). Social psychology, 4th edition*

Smaldino, P. E. (2017). Models are stupid, and we need more of them. *Computational social psychology*, 311-331.. (not between 320-326)

Brewer, M. B. (1999). The psychology of prejudice: Ingroup love and outgroup hate?. *Journal of social issues*, *55*(3), 429-444. – 16p.

Haslam, S. A., Reicher, S. D., & Birney, M. E. (2016). Questioning authority: new perspectives on Milgram's ‘obedience’research and its implications for intergroup relations. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, *11*, 6-9. – 4p.

Le Texier, T. (2019). Debunking the stanford prison experiment. *American Psychologist*, *74*(7), 823. – 20p.

Twenge, J. M., Baumeister, R. F., DeWall, C. N., Ciarocco, N. J., & Bartels, J. M. (2007). Social exclusion decreases prosocial behavior. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, *92*(1), 56.- 11p

Blass, T. (2012). A cross-cultural comparison of studies of obedience using the Milgram paradigm: A review. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*.- 10p.

Schimmack, U. (2020). A meta-psychological perspective on the decade of replication failures in social psychology. *Canadian Psychology/Psychologie Canadienne*, *61*(4), 364. – 11p.

Smith, E. R., & Conrey, F. R. (2007). Agent-based modeling: A new approach for theory building in social psychology. *Personality and social psychology review*, *11*(1), 87-104. – 17.p

Goldberg, A., & Stein, S. K. (2018). Beyond social contagion: Associative diffusion and the emergence of cultural variation. *American Sociological Review*, *83*(5), 897-932. – Introduction and conclusion.

## Groups and culture dynamics

Lecturer: Maël Lecoursonnais

Note: The ones with \* are empirical papers, and in those ones, the reader should not necessarily focus on the methods but rather on the literature review and the results.

### Background optional readings:

* Bourdieu, Pierre. 1979. Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste. Reprint 1984. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.
* Stryker, Sheldon, and Peter J. Burke. 2000. “The Past, Present, and Future of an Identity Theory.” Social Psychology Quarterly 63(4):284. doi: [10.2307/2695840](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.2307%2F2695840&data=05%7C01%7Crodrigo.martinez.pena%40liu.se%7C3ab6437d875a4d71e7e908dbd48b2494%7C913f18ec7f264c5fa816784fe9a58edd%7C0%7C0%7C638337466295517838%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YD0jbwDuaPgpDZmjB92dS3pam2TjfQgvg78JIuEFezk%3D&reserved=0).

### Required readings:

* Elias N (2000 [1939]), “On the Use of the Fork at Table”, in The Civilizing Process: Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. p. 107-109.
* Wacquant, Loïc. 2016. “A Concise Genealogy and Anatomy of Habitus.” The Sociological Review 64(1):64–72. doi: [10.1111/1467-954X.12356](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.1111%2F1467-954X.12356&data=05%7C01%7Crodrigo.martinez.pena%40liu.se%7C3ab6437d875a4d71e7e908dbd48b2494%7C913f18ec7f264c5fa816784fe9a58edd%7C0%7C0%7C638337466295517838%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CfldOn892S1vWg%2FC1MSTQYYJ7gEjmQ6akHc4inSK6xE%3D&reserved=0).
* \*Vaisey, Stephen. 2009. “Motivation and Justification: A Dual‐Process Model of Culture in Action.” American Journal of Sociology 114(6):1675–1715. doi: [10.1086/597179](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.1086%2F597179&data=05%7C01%7Crodrigo.martinez.pena%40liu.se%7C3ab6437d875a4d71e7e908dbd48b2494%7C913f18ec7f264c5fa816784fe9a58edd%7C0%7C0%7C638337466295517838%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=32Tjr2uFgwCcrfHaZnFNQLKb%2Ff%2BT08anbaM2YYZCUQ0%3D&reserved=0).
* \*DellaPosta, Daniel, Yongren Shi, and Michael Macy. 2015. “Why Do Liberals Drink Lattes?” American Journal of Sociology 120(5):1473–1511. doi: [10.1086/681254](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.1086%2F681254&data=05%7C01%7Crodrigo.martinez.pena%40liu.se%7C3ab6437d875a4d71e7e908dbd48b2494%7C913f18ec7f264c5fa816784fe9a58edd%7C0%7C0%7C638337466295517838%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2F56gDyyq%2BQuvy9ckydwmqexx2MJGiUFVMaqBhLBAnGw%3D&reserved=0).
* Bourdieu, Pierre. 1991. “Identity and Representation: Elements for a Critical Reflection on the Idea of Region.” Pp. 220–28 in Language and symbolic power. Vol. 223. Harvard University Press Cambridge, MA.
* \*Leszczensky, Lars, and Sebastian Pink. 2019. “What Drives Ethnic Homophily? A Relational Approach on How Ethnic Identification Moderates Preferences for Same-Ethnic Friends.” American Sociological Review 84(3):394–419. doi: [10.1177/0003122419846849](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.1177%2F0003122419846849&data=05%7C01%7Crodrigo.martinez.pena%40liu.se%7C3ab6437d875a4d71e7e908dbd48b2494%7C913f18ec7f264c5fa816784fe9a58edd%7C0%7C0%7C638337466295517838%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ljRJYzeebnTN4hlKkrGzYNi4EP96raJTcc2ObU5nVnM%3D&reserved=0).
* \*Pickett, Robert E. M., Aliya Saperstein, and Andrew M. Penner. 2023. “Identification in Interaction: Racial Mirroring between Interviewers and Respondents.” Social Forces 102(1):23–44. doi: [10.1093/sf/soac115](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.1093%2Fsf%2Fsoac115&data=05%7C01%7Crodrigo.martinez.pena%40liu.se%7C3ab6437d875a4d71e7e908dbd48b2494%7C913f18ec7f264c5fa816784fe9a58edd%7C0%7C0%7C638337466295517838%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1VVPCL%2BHgwfQZe5fAqlCFzq%2FRuvyR%2FL7R8DvLFp3WnM%3D&reserved=0).

### Further optional readings:

* Wimmer, Andreas. 2008. “The Making and Unmaking of Ethnic Boundaries: A Multilevel Process Theory.” American Journal of Sociology 113(4):970–1022. doi: [10.1086/522803](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.1086%2F522803&data=05%7C01%7Crodrigo.martinez.pena%40liu.se%7C3ab6437d875a4d71e7e908dbd48b2494%7C913f18ec7f264c5fa816784fe9a58edd%7C0%7C0%7C638337466295517838%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FqikswGLiBnP%2FbwAb8EUJvYSclArfYCh6wIQEbHA4xY%3D&reserved=0).
* Collins, Randall. 2000. “Situational Stratification: A Micro-Macro Theory of Inequality.” Sociological Theory 18(1):17–43.