

Organizations, Occupations, and Labor (OOL)
Department of Sociology
University of California, Irvine
2004-07

Overview

The study of organizations, occupations, and labor has long occupied a central place in sociological analysis. At UCI, sociologists studying organizations, occupations, and labor focus on the dynamics of change, inequality, social structure, and decision-making. Faculty members in this cluster pursue these themes from a variety of theoretical perspectives using multiple methods. Because of this diversity, research activities by members working in this field overlap with a number of other fields within the Department, especially social networks, political sociology/social movements, social inequality, global change, and research methods. Sociology faculty members also actively participate in the Center for Organizational Research (COR). COR brings together UCI faculty and students studying organizations from throughout the UCI campus in joint research projects, intellectual workshops, and graduate seminars.

Faculty

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| Nina Bandelj | – economic sociology; social networks; global inequality and change; culture; quantitative and qualitative methods |
| Carter Butts | – social networks; decision-making; economic sociology; mathematical modeling |
| Katherine Faust | – social networks, social methods |
| Martha Feldman* | – organization theory; organizational change; decision making; qualitative field methods |
| Lin Freeman | – social networks; social structure and cognition; quantitative methods |
| Matt Huffman | – race/gender inequality in organizations and occupations; quantitative methods |
| Calvin Morrill** | – organization theory; political analysis of organizations; organizational change and conflict; cultural-institutional approaches; law & society; sociology of youth; qualitative field methods |
| Joy Pixley | – work and family; sex stratification; gender roles; survey methods |
| Judith Stepan-Norris | – labor unions; sociology of work; sociology of the professions; comparative historical methods |

* Also affiliated with the Department of Planning, Policy, and Design, School of Social Ecology.

** Cluster coordinator.

Graduate Courses and Field Exam

To qualify for a graduate field exam and/or expertise in OOL, students must take at least two core courses and one elective course in the field.

Core Courses: Networks and Organizations; Organization Theory; Work and Industrial Relations

Elective Courses: Economic Sociology; Gender and Work; Organizational Inequality; Political Analysis of Organizations; Power and Empowerment in Organizations; special topic courses.

OOL Course Offerings

2004-05

- Fall:** Culture and Consumption (special topic course; David Frank)
Winter: Power and Empowerment in Organizations (Martha Feldman)
Spring: Work and Industrial Relations (Judith Stepan-Norris)
Networks and Organizations (Carter Butts)

2005-06

- Fall:** (No OOL courses offered.)
Winter: Organizational Inequality (Matt Huffman)
Power and Empowerment in Organizations (Martha Feldman)
Spring: Organization Theory (Calvin Morrill)

2006-07

- Fall:** Sociology of Strikes (Judith Stepan-Norris)
Economic Sociology (Nina Bandelj)
Winter: Movements, Organizations, and Society (Mayer Zald)
Spring: Networks and Organizations (Carter Butts)

Selected Research Projects Currently Underway by OOL Faculty

- Organizational and social network determinants of foreign direct investment in Eastern Europe
- The effects of law and organizational context on legal consciousness in high schools
- The historical relationships between union leadership, union democracy and workers' consciousness in American unions
- Social inequality and work-family benefits in U.S. workplaces
- The roles of organizational routines in organizational learning and change
- Social network approaches to economic, political, and organizational change
- Mathematically modeling organizational decision making involving risk assessment
- How dual-earner couples make decisions about career opportunities that involve moving
- The role of collective action in institutional and organizational change