

Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

SPEAKER SERIES

Jean-Sébastien Guy Memorial Lecture in Social Theory

Towards a Sociology of Sociological Theory

Dr. Cinthya Guzman
University of Prince Edward Island

This research investigates how sociological theory has developed within English, French, and German academic traditions since the 1950s, treating theoretical discourse itself as a social phenomenon worthy of study. Through an analysis of nearly 700 theory textbooks, the project reveals distinct patterns in how different linguistic traditions construct and transmit sociological knowledge. While English-language textbooks often center on the “holy trinity” of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, French and German traditions encompass a wider range of theoretical perspectives. The findings demonstrate that sociology’s theoretical canon is not simply an archive of influential works, but rather a dynamic social construct that both reflects and shapes the discipline’s development across cultural contexts. This research advances our understanding of how sociological knowledge is produced and transmitted across different academic traditions, while contributing to broader conversations about intellectual diversity in the social sciences.

Friday, March 21st, 2025
2:30 p.m. in McCain, #1116
All Welcome!