Course Outline
Despite being debunked again and again, the idea that theory and practice are opposed still persists. Such an idea assumes that thinking about the world and acting in the world are separable: that thinking and doing are mutually exclusive. In this course we treat theorizing as a form of practical activity, something we do. When we theorize we attempt to understand our own place in the world, to make trouble with received wisdom and to discern some order in the midst of the apparent chaos that is collective life. Nothing, then, is as practical as a good theory.

We will engage with a wide range of readings, from those that are solidly within the old-dead-white-guy sociological canon to those that critique and destabilize foundational assumptions in social thought. We will look especially at recent debates around the role of theory in advancing social justice. By the end of the course, at the very least, you will be able to demonstrate the practical import of good theory. If you’re adventurous, you’ll also be able to theorize.

Evaluation will include: weekly writing assignments, participation, proposal and final paper

Course texts are TBA, but many course readings will be made available through the library course reserves system (ARES).

***Please note that this outline is for information purposes only and may change at the Professor’s discretion. The final and full syllabus will be distributed in the first seminar on September 12, 2017***