Course Description

According to gender theorist Raewyn Connell, “theories don’t grow on trees.” This course takes this statement as a premise to both engage in the critical reading of theory and in the exercise of theorizing. As such, the course will push you to take into consideration questions concerning knowledge production and its application to different contexts and research questions. The course will also have as one of its main aims developing your skills to build theory by bringing together different theoretical approaches and expanding said approaches as you interrogate their ontological and epistemological assumptions, as well as your own. The focus of the course is primarily on contemporary sociological theory produced in Northern and Southern contexts.

Course Readings

I will provide you with the titles of readings that are required for the course. However, it will be your responsibility to look for them, unless otherwise noted. This exercise is not to make you do “extra work” but rather to encourage you to go into journals that publish theory and browse through their issues. This is important to understand how theory is published, but also to get familiarized with the questions that are driving the sociological theorizing in sociology as a field.

Course Evaluation

This course relies heavily on participation, and it is also reading and writing intensive. You will be required to write short weekly reading responses, as well as longer critical analyses of the ways in which a theoretical framework is constructed and applied in various articles. You will also be required to lead group discussions based on this analysis. The final assignment for this course will target the development of your own theoretical framework.