

Master Program Economic Sociology – Recommended Reading

This reading list provides some basic literature associated with key content of the Master Program of Economic Sociology at Goethe University Frankfurt. It is especially designed for students, who would like to prepare themselves for joining the master program by upgrading their capabilities in accordance with the international standards of teaching and research in economic sociology. The reading list consist of selected textbooks, handbooks and encyclopaedias as well as readers that cover all the areas of the Frankfurt Master Program of Economic Sociology, namely theories and methods of economic sociology, sociology of organization and work, sociology of markets, and economic governance.

Textbooks

Recommended textbooks are:

- Swedberg, R. (2003), *Principles of Economic Sociology*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Carruthers, B. G. and Babb, S. L. (2012), *Economy/Society: Markets, Meanings, and Social Structure*, Second Edition, New York: Sage.
- Hass, J. (2007), *Economic Sociology: An Introduction*, London: Routledge.
- Trigilia, C. (2002), *Economic Sociology: State, Market, and Society in Modern Capitalism*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Swedberg's textbook is our primary recommendation. It outlines his Weberian approach to economic sociology, and in doing so it presents some key content of his co-edited *Handbook of Economic Sociology*, cited below, in a compressed format. The subsequently addressed textbooks are useful complements. Carruthers and Babb add further content on inequality, culture and power, Hass provides additional perspectives from organization studies as well as from the overlapping areas of political economy, and Trigilia puts an emphasis on the theoretical classics in economic sociology and their persistent relevance for the analysis of modern capitalism.

08. Mai 2020

Fachbereich 03
Gesellschaftswissenschaften

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Handbooks and Encyclopaedias

- Smelser, N. J and Swedberg, R. (eds.) (2005), *Handbook of Economic Sociology*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Beckert, J. and Zafirovski, M. (eds.) (2006), *International Encyclopedia of Economic Sociology*, London: Routledge.

The *Handbook of Economic Sociology*, edited by Smelser and Swedberg is currently the most relevant handbook in the field. It brings together contributions on state-of-the-art research in the diverse fields of economic sociology. Together with Swedberg's textbook presented above, which should be consulted first, it is part of our primary recommendations. The *Encyclopedia of Economic Sociology* by Beckert and Zafirovski augments this content by presenting brief entries and short articles on selected keywords and issues.

Readers

- Biggart, N. W. (ed.) (2002), *Readings in Economic Sociology*, Oxford: Blackwell.
- Dobbin, F. (ed.) (2004), *The New Economic Sociology: A Reader*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Granovetter, M. and Swedberg, R. (eds.) (2011), *The Sociology of Economic Life, Third Edition*, Boulder: Westview Press.

All the three readers mentioned above present original texts which have exercised major analytical impact on the field of economic sociology. The primary recommendation is Biggart's reader, which provides a well-balanced overview of classical and current texts on capitalism, markets and economic action. It is effectively augmented by Dobbin's reader, which puts an emphasis on organizational issues, and the reader by Granovetter and Swedberg, which accentuates literature on markets and firms.