Week 1: Classics

A major move of Karl Mannheim’s sociology of knowledge is his opposition to the European epistemological tradition, in which the search of truth, validity of claims, and the foundation of knowledge is most important. Replacing these traditional concerns is a social genesis of knowledge formation and change. In this week, we trace the theoretical and historical origins of Mannheim’s sociology of knowledge through his dialogues with the Marxists, positivists, neo-Kantians, etc. Highlighted are the intellectual debates that prompted Mannheim to take on a particular approach to the social dimensions of thought styles. What are the subject matters for an investigation of sociology of knowledge? Does Sociology of knowledge require a unique set of methodological approaches? What roles do interests and values play in such a study?


Week 2: Intersubjectivity, Worldview

By establishing the sociological conditions through which social actors come to experience intersubjective understanding, we will locate the role of consciousness, mind, and knowledge in constructing everyday reality for the social participants. This week, we turn to a phenomenological approach to social knowledge at the commonsensical level, stressing the instructive description of an intersubjective world.


Week 3: Totem, Body, Boundaries

Selections: Book II: The Elementary Belief (pp. 121-333).

Selections: Chapter 6 “Universalization and Particularization”; Chapter 8 “Time Regained”; Chapter 9 “History and Dialectic.” And if you still have time, Chapter 2 “The Logic of Totemic Classifications.”


Week 4: Science


Part II The Discursive Regularities (The Unities of Discourse; The Formation of Objects; The Formation of Enunicative Modalities; The Formation of Concepts; The Formation of Strategies.) + pp. 178-195 “Science and Knowledge.”


**Week 5: Knowledge, Power**


**Week 6: Social Locations and Knowledge**


**Week 7: Values, Truth, Validity**

**Harbermas, Objectification**

**Objectification, Reification, Classification, Valuation, Ideology**


**Week 8: State and Knowledge**


On Epistemic Communities and International Policy, select one or two articles to read from International Organization, 1992. vol. 46 (1)—Downloadable from JSTOR.


**Week 9: Tacit and Distributive Knowledge**


**Week 10: Science in Action**


**Week 11: Knowledge Dynamics, Politics, and Conflicts**

[This week we can also read back some of things left from Week 5 and Week 8]

Habermas—


**Week 12: End of Knowledge [This is Optional—We could leave this open and split up a dense week. Or replace this with Alternative Topics]**

Imagination; Ignorance; Error


**Alternative Topic 1: Doing Sociology**


**Alternative Topic 2: Time**


Pickering. 1995. “Beyond Constraint: The Temporality of Practice and the Historicity of