

8.5.2020, 14:00-15:30. Fabio Rojas (Indiana University): *Strategies and Positions in Organizational Fields: The Case of Contemporary Art Collectors*

Abstract

Institutional theory is often viewed as a macro-theory of how fields are structured and organized. The field of contemporary art raises numerous questions about how actors interact with fields. Using data from in depth interviews with contemporary art collectors, I examine three forms of art collecting and describe how they describe the ways that individuals are embedded in fields: art collectors may build their collection using the menu of options provided by elites; art collections may develop out of social networks; and art collections may reflection an individual's idiosyncratic biographies. The data is then used to reflect on recent theoretical developments in institutional theory, such as inhabited institutionalism and institutional work theory.

Bio

Fabio Rojas is professor of sociology at Indiana University, Bloomington, who focuses on social change and organizational behavior. He is the author of *From Black Power to Black Studies: How a Radical Social Movement Became an Academic Discipline* (2007, The Johns Hopkins University Press) and *Theory for the Working Sociologist* (2017, Columbia University Press). He co-authored, with Michael T. Heaney, *Party in the Street: The Antiwar Movement and the Democratic Party after 9/11* (2015, Cambridge University Press). With Rashawn Ray, he is also the co-editor of *Contexts: Sociology for the Public*, the official magazine of the American Sociological Association.