

L5. Digging in the past

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Inquiries in Sociology

The problem of historical inquiries

- People are dead !
 - Difficult to observe, to interview, to have them replying to surveys, to enroll them in experiments
- Time has passed !
 - Even if not dead, memory vanishes (errors, omission). Interviews => reconstruction (teleological, justification, reinterpretation based on the present)
- Use of non interactive types of sources
 - Typical source : archives
 - Sources not designed primarily to serve a scientific purpose



Advantages of historical data

- Things calm down when they're over
 - Possibility to investigate 'hot' topics
 - Violence, Army, State, Police, etc. but also business
 - Access to some sources that are non-accessible to contemporaries.
 - Rules of access
 - 50 years after event
 - 75 years after event (personal)
 - Digging in the past => long term causalities / genealogy
- Enable to understand present structures of society.

Type of sources

- Secondhand research
 - Analyze and synthesis of firsthand research done by others
- Books and prints of the past
 - Already publicly available (no discoveries)
 - National library
- Legislation
- Archives
 - Opening old boxes full of dusty old papers
 - Sometimes never opened
 - Previously listed (inventory) or not
- Organized by institutions according to institutional logics
- Might be dispersed in many places
- Imagine a research on Sciences Po's students and Algerian war?
- Databases
 - Preexisting databases
 - Or coding from secondhand research in databases
 - Historical dictionaries
 - From books
 - Archives

Historical sociology as a secondhand history

- Marx and Engels
 - *The Peasant war in Germany* (1850)
 - *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* (1884)
 - Hot history based on press
 - *The Class Struggles in France* (1850)
 - *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (1852)
 - *The Civil War in France, 1871*
- Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)
 - *The division of Labor in Society* (1893)
 - *The Evolution of Educational Thought* (1938)

Historical sociology as a secondhand history 2

- Max Weber (1864-1920)
 - *Protestant Ethics and the spirit of capitalism* (1904)
 - Sociology of religion (1921)
 - *Confucianism and Taoism*
 - *Ancient Judaism*
 - *Hinduism and Buddhism*
 - *General Economic History* (1923)
 - *Economy and Society* (1921)
 - *Sociology of music* (1921)
- Norbert Elias (1897-1990)
 - *The Court Society* (1969)
 - *On the Process of Civilization* (1939)
 - *Mozart. Portrait of a Genius* (1991)
- Second hand historical sociology still continues
 - Dobbin, *Forging industrial policy* (1994)
 - Castel, *From Manual Workers to Wage Laborers: Transformation of the Social Question* (1995)
 - Beckert, *Inherited Wealth* (2007).

Reading other historians. Weber

Max Weber, *General Economic History*, 1921.

- Series of lectures on economic history
- Thesis : western capitalism is the by-product of a process of rationalization.
 - “Drawing together once more the distinguishing characteristics of capitalism and its causes, we find the following factors. First, this institution alone produced a *rational organization of labor*. [...] Only the occident knows the *state in the modern sense*, with a professional administration, specialized officialdom and law based on the concept of citizenship. Only the occident knows *rational law*, made by jurists and rationally interpreted and applied. [...] Furthermore, only occident possesses *science in the present-day sense of the word* [...]. Finally, western civilisation is further distinguished from every other by the presence of men with a rational ethic for the conduct of life...”
- Methods for inquiry : reading and more reading
 - Look at the reading notes.

CHAPTER 23

1. General References.—W. Sombart, *Der Moderne Kapitalismus*, Munich and Leipsic, 1916; J. Strieder, *Studien zur kapitalistischen Organisationsform, Kartelle, Monopole und Aktiengesellschaften im Mittelalter und zu Beginn der Neuzeit*, Munich and Leipsic, 1914; Julius Klein, *The Mesta. A Study in Spanish Economic History, 1273–1836*, Cambridge (Mass.), 1920; J. and S. Davis, *Essays in the earlier history of American corporations*, 2 vols., Cambridge (Mass.), 1917; G. Cawston and A. H. Keane, *Early Chartered Companies*, London, 1896; R. Muir, *The Making of British India, 1756 to 1858*, Manchester, 1915; P. Bonnassieux, *Les grandes compagnies de commerce*, Paris, 1892.

2. Cp. H. Levy, *Economic Liberalism* (Eng. Trans., London, 1913.)

Reading texts of the past. Foucault

Foucault, 1966, *The order of things* [*Les mots et les choses*]

- Knowledge is structured by Trans-disciplinary *epistemes* : 3 domains language, wealth, nature
 - 17th-18th: knowledge (grammar, natural history, wealth analysis) structured as a table, along the order of the discourse.
 - 19th: Shift to another episteme. Knowledge (philology, biology, political economy) structured around time, and laws of their own evolution
- Inquiry : reading authors of the past. Condillac, D'Alembert, Destutt de Tracy, Diderot, Smith, Ricardo, etc.
 - Cf. Reading notes from chapter Classifying (on natural history)

THE ORDER OF THINGS

- 7 Ibid., section 167; cf. also section 327.
- 8 Tournefort, *Éléments de botanique*, p. 558.
- 9 Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*, section 299.
- 10 Linnaeus (op. cit., section 331) lists the parts of the body that can be used as archetypes, whether for dimensions or, above all, for forms: hair, nails, thumbs, palms, eyes, ears, fingers, navel, penis, vulva, breasts.
- 11 Ibid., sections 328–9.
- 12 Buffon, *Discours sur la manière de traiter l'histoire naturelle* (*Œuvres complètes*, t. I, p. 21).
- 13 Adanson, *Familles des plantes* (Paris, 1763, t. I, préface, p. cci).
- 14 Boissier de Sauvages, *Nosologie méthodique* (Fr. trans. Lyon, 1772, t. I, pp. 91–2).
- 15 Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*, section 258.
- 16 Tournefort, *Éléments de botanique*, pp. 1–2.
- 17 Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*, section 192.
- 18 Ibid., section 193.
- 19 Linnaeus, *Systema naturae*, section 12.
- 20 Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*, section 77.
- 21 Linnaeus, *Systema naturae*, section 12.
- 22 'The natural character of the species is its description' (Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*, section 193).
- 23 Tournefort, *Éléments de botanique*, p. 27.
- 24 Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*, section 167.
- 25 Linnaeus, *Système sexuel des végétaux* (Fr. trans. Paris, year VI, p. 21).
- 26 Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*, section 212.
- 27 Ibid., section 284.
- 28 Ibid., section 151. These two functions, which are guaranteed by the character, correspond exactly to the functions of designation and derivation performed in language by the common noun.
- 29 Adanson, *Histoire naturelle du Sénégal* (Paris, 1757).
- 30 Adanson, *Cours d'histoire naturelle* (Paris, 1772; 1845 edn., p. 17).
- 31 Adanson, *Familles des plantes*.
- 32 Ibid., t. I, préface.
- 33 Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*, section 105.
- 34 Ibid., section 94.
- 35 Cf. P. Belon, *Histoire de la nature des oiseaux*.
- 36 Cf. p. 113 above.
- 37 Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*, section 156.
- 38 Ibid., section 169.
- 39 Buffon, *Discours sur la manière de traiter l'histoire naturelle* (*Œuvres complètes*, t. I, pp. 36 and 39).
- 40 C. Bonnet, *Contemplation de la nature*, 1ère partie (*Œuvres complètes*, t. IV, pp. 35–6).
- 41 Linnaeus, *Philosophie botanique*.

Making a database out of others' work

Padgett & Ansell. 1993. "Robust Action and the Rise of the Medici, 1400-1434." *American journal of sociology* 98 (6): 1259-1319.

- Sources:
 - Prosopography of Florentine families: Kent, *The Rise of the Medici* (1978)
 - Economic wealth & residence: Herlihy & Klapisch Zuber (1981)
 - Tax assessments → Kent 1975
- Data:
 - 215 families / 92 for networks
 - Variables
 - Individual/family : Partisanship (Medicii/Oligarchs); Wealth ; ancientness in aristocracy; neighborhood residence ;
 - Ties (strong): marriage; partnership, bank employment, trade, real estate; weak : personal loans ; friendship; patronage; mallevadori

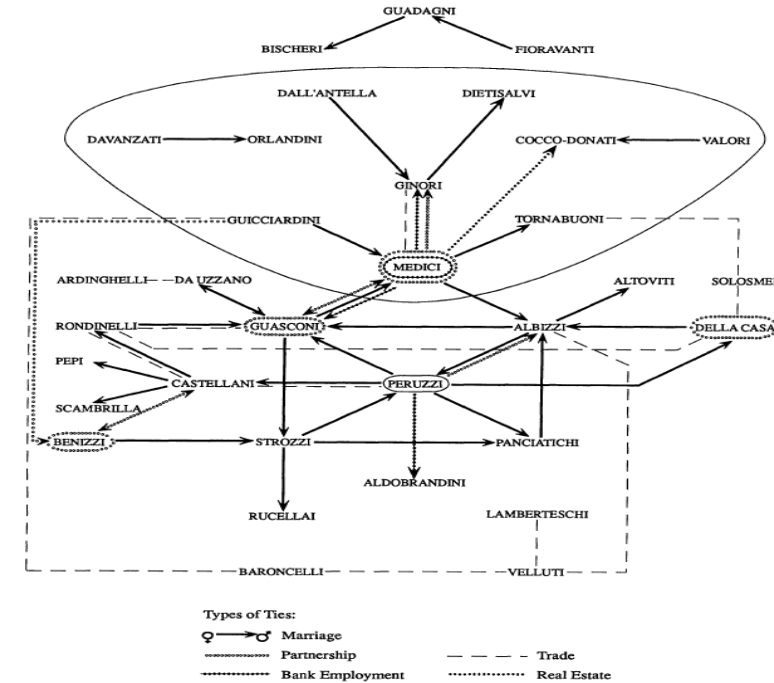
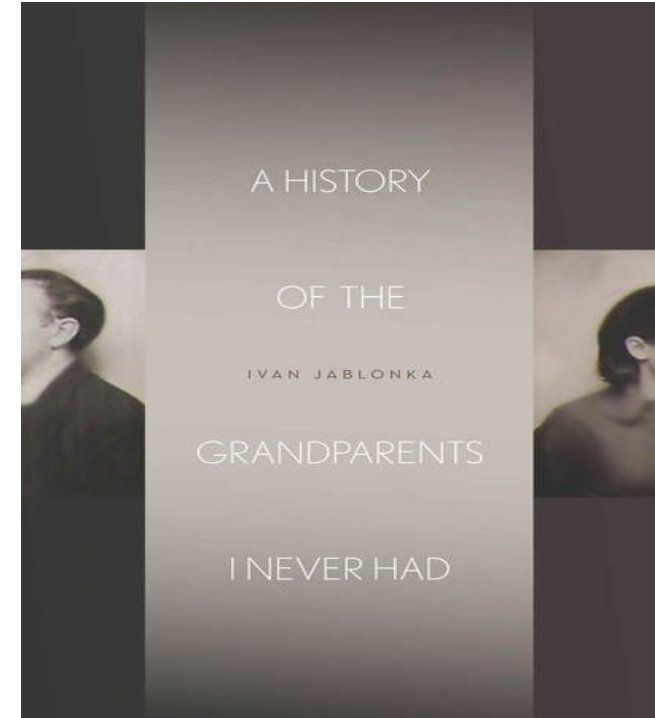


FIG. 2a.—Marriage and economic blockmodel structure (92 elite families)

Archives' inventiveness

- Very different source of archives
 - *Shtetl* (Early life)
 - Poland's Police (Arrested for communist activities in early 30s)
 - French Police (Clandestine migrant in the late 30s)
 - French Army (Volunteer in the Légion Etrangère during WW2)
 - French Police (Occupation. Arrest)



How structured should the collection of historical material be?

- All inquiry range from very structured to very unstructured
- Structured: researcher defines in advance exactly what is to be selected, collected, quantified, modeled, etc.
- Unstructured: researcher decides on the job what's interesting and to be collected
- There's always a minimal structuring. Broad selection of sources, archives
- Total structuring in historical sociology difficult
 - In archives, you don't know what you will find
 - Possibility to construct databases
 - But a fair deal of exploration at least in the quantitative analysis

Historical sociology versus History

- Warning: Difference more of degree than of nature
- (Analytical) Historical sociology
 - Using historical material as an empirical material for proving a general theory (valid beyond the historical case)
 - Einwohner. 2003. “Opportunity, honor, and action in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943.” *AJS*
 - Warsaw ghetto uprising proves that no opportunity + logic of honor => social movement
 - Braun, 2018. “Minorities and the clandestine collective action dilemma: The secret protection of Jews during the holocaust.” *AJS*.
 - Protection of Jews by Catholics and Protestants in the Netherlands proves that minority groups more efficient than majority one in clandestine action
 - Little emphasis on historical description. Often little historiographic discovery. Reinterpretation of secondhand sources.
 - Risk: What do we learn historically?

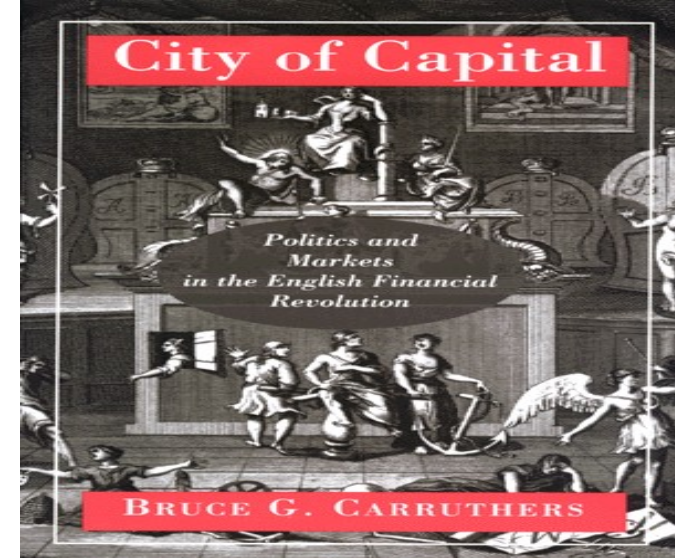
Historical sociology versus History

- Genealogic historical sociology
 - Closer from classical history
 - Showing the historical roots of our times / society
 - Better / unexpected understanding of some phenomenon
 - Example. Origin of the subprime crisis
 - Quinn. 2017. ““The miracles of bookkeeping”: How budget politics link fiscal policies and financial markets.” *AJS*.
 - Left wing Johnson government trying to solve poverty and inflation at the same time.
Sponsored → securitization
 - More narrative type of historical sociology

History versus Historical Sociology

- History => describing and explaining the historical case
- Eventual use of already validated external theories as explanation of historical cases
 - Browning. 1993. *Ordinary men*.
 - “Obedience to authority” as a psychological explanation of historical case
- Theorization within the limit of the historical case
 - Hilberg. 1961. *The Destruction of the European Jews*
 - Destruction of Jews through steps: definition, census, expropriation, concentration, extermination
 - Brayard, 2012. *Auschwitz, enquête sur un complot nazi*.
 - Distinguishes two holocausts, western versus eastern Jews. Shows holocaust decision later and secret stricter for western Jews
- Role of narration +++
- Skepticism regarding general theory

A quantitative use of archives:
(Carruthers, 1996)



The City of Capital

- Aims
 - “About how politics and political conflict influence economic institutions.” (p.6)
 - Politics and markets are not (always) distinct spheres.
 - Markets’ development not only due to property rights but also affected by political partisanship and connections. (p. 14)
- Conflict: Whigs vs. Tories
- Period: 1672-1712
 - Glorious revolution (1688-1689)
 - Bill of rights (1689)
- Case: market dominated by three joint-stock companies.
 - the East India Company
 - the Bank of England
 - the South Sea Company

Sources

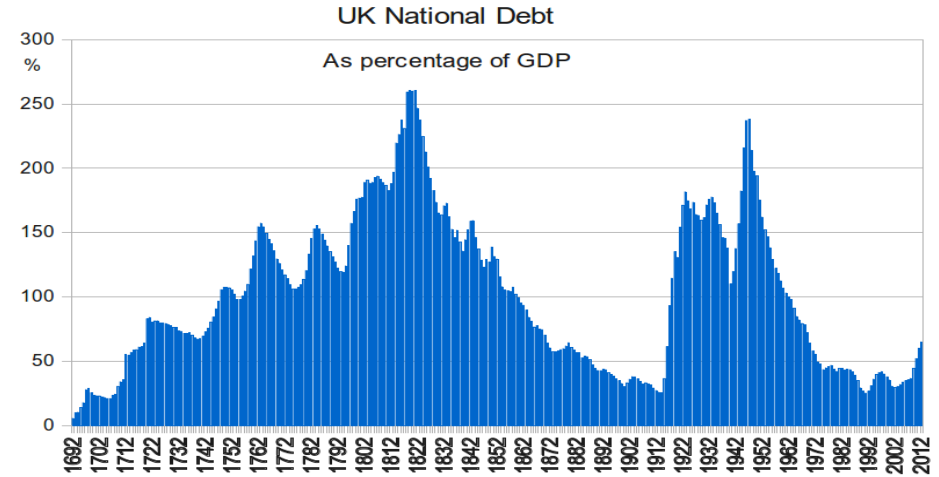
- Links between finance and politics during UK's early 18th century
 - Sources for finance
 - Sources for politics
- Finance: Company stock ledgers
 - Necessary for securing dividend and ownership
 - Bank of England : Bank of England Archives, AC28/1534, 1536–38
 - East India Company : India Office Library L/AG/14/5/2.
 - Missing for South Sea Company
 - Ownership : name of owners
 - Titles (lord, lady, etc.)
 - Address
 - Transfers of property → recorded through double entry
- Politics: London poll books for the 1710 and 1713 Parliamentary elections
 - Only the wealthy elite could vote. No secret ballot
 - “...public knowledge, and with the production of a poll book, those choices became published knowledge as well”.
 - Limits : London and Voters only
 - Matching of voters and owners
- Huguenots, dissenters and Jews
 - Match with other lists
 - Lists of naturalized French Protestants
- List of directors of the banks

Historical background

- Establishment of the political parties, new organization of English politics, competition to take control over the government
 - 1679-1681 (exclusion bill): Country party (Whig ancestor) wants to exclude James II from the crown because of his Catholicism. Tories against.
- Growing importance of the Parliament (e.g., its increasing role in public finance):
 - From King alone to King-in-Parliament
 - Glorious revolution and bill of rights
- Persistent religious conflicts
 - Main: Catholics vs. Protestants.
 - Minor: Anglicans versus non-conformists (Huguenots)

A weak state becoming a great power

- Not a strong monarchy as France
- Engaged in many wars, especially with France
- How to collect resources?
 - Through taxes (limited)
 - Through debt
 - 1672: last default of Charles II
 - Short term debt
 - Conversion of short term debt to long term debt
 - 1693 transferable debt mechanism



Politics and the joint-stock companies

- 3 joint-stock companies :
 - (Old / United) East India Company;
 - South Sea Company ,
 - the Bank of England
- Funded British debt and enabled the weak English State to sustain expensive wars.
 - 1712: big 3 → £ 16 million loans to the British government
- Mutual dependence between the crown and the joint-stock companies
 - Colonial and commercial privilege / monopolies
- Basis of the politicization
 - Religion: many dissenters among stockholders

Social characteristics of stockholders

- Male
- A small but significant minority of dissenters
- Mainly coming from the bourgeoisie (traditional aristocratic elites are not present)

Selected Social and Financial Characteristics of Bank of England Shareholders, 1712

<i>Sex:</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Average Shareholdings</i>	<i>Average Transactions</i>
Male	3,610	81.7	£1,364.1	1.6
Female	795	18.0	£680.3	0.5
Other	14	.3	£756.8	2.2
Total	4,419	100.0	£1,239.6	1.4
<i>Social Background:</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Average Shareholdings</i>	<i>Average Transactions</i>
Orthodox*	4,139	93.7	£1,112.0	1.3
Unorthodox**	280	6.3	£3,118.5	3.4
Total	4,419	100.0	£1,239.6	1.4
<i>Social Status:</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Average Shareholdings</i>	<i>Average Transactions</i>
Commoner	4,282	96.9	£1,170.3	1.4
Baronet or Peer	137	3.1	£3,396.8	1.0
Total	4,419	100.0	£1,239.6	1.4

* Native English. ** Foreigner, Naturalized, Huguenot, Quaker, or Jewish.

Sources: See appendix.

Selected Social and Financial Characteristics of United East India Company Shareholders, 1712

<i>Sex:</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Average Shareholdings</i>	<i>Average Transactions</i>
Male	1,926	85.2	£1,548.6	1.8
Female	331	14.6	£643.0	0.4
Other	4	0.2	£595.0	0.5
Total	2,261	100.0	£1,414.5	1.6
<i>Social Background:</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Average Shareholdings</i>	<i>Average Transactions</i>
Orthodox*	2,016	89.2	£1,180.4	1.3
Unorthodox**	245	10.8	£3,309.0	4.3
Total	2,261	100.0	£1,414.5	1.6
<i>Social Status:</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Average Shareholdings</i>	<i>Average Transactions</i>
Commoner	2,212	97.8	£1,348.0	1.6
Baronet or Peer	49	2.2	£4,409.5	1.7
Total	2,261	100.0	£1,414.5	1.6

* Native English. ** Foreigner, Naturalized, Huguenot, Quaker, or Jewish.

Sources: See appendix.

Political characteristics

- Banks and big money are rather Whigs
 - Bank of England
 - United East India
- But some institutions were Tories
 - Old East India
 - Land Bank (failure)
 - South Sea Company

TABLE 6.2
Political Affiliations of Bank of England and
United East India Company Directors, 1712

	<i>Bank of England Directors</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Tory	2	4.4
Whig	37	82.2
Unknown	6	13.3
Total	45	100.0
	<i>East India Company Directors</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Tory	14	33.3
Whig	22	52.4
Unknown	6	14.3
Total	42	100.0

Sources: India Office Library B/255, Acres 1940, and appendix.

Political Affiliations and Financial Characteristics of Bank of England and United
East India Company Shareholders, 1712

<i>Bank of England Shareholders:</i>				
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Average Shareholdings</i>	<i>Average Transactions</i>
Tory	497	11.2	£1,251.3	1.5
Whig	1,107	25.1	£2,242.4	2.4
Split Support	7	0.2	£1,100.7	1.4
Unknown	2,808	63.6	£841.1	0.9
Total	4,419	100.0	£1,239.6	1.4
<i>East India Company Shareholders:</i>				
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Average Shareholdings</i>	<i>Average Transactions</i>
Tory	272	12.0	£1,534.2	1.6
Whig	674	29.8	£2,315.9	2.9
Split Support	4	0.2	£875.0	6.0
Unknown	1,311	58.0	£927.1	0.9
Total	2,261	100.0	£1,414.5	1.6

Joint-stock companies are political battlefields

- Between joint-stock companies and crown
 - Bankers can refuse to fund or to discount the debt if they don't agree with the politics
 - Crown can grant or not privileges, promote or not competition
- Between joint-stock companies
 - Elimination of rivals.
Organizing run on banks
 - Managing mergers
- Inside the joint-stock companies for its direction
 - Election for directors
 - Trading of shares

Bank of England

- Funded in 1694 in order to lend money to the crown
- Very Whig
 - Many dissenters
- Strong opposition of Tories
 - Try to launch an alternative project in 1696: Land Bank
 - Strong opposition of the Bank of England to the Land Bank
 - Finally, the Land Bank is a failure
- Bank and the crown
 - 1710: Defend Whig ministers and advise the queen not to replace them with Tories
 - Refuse to discount bills
 - Tories worried by the power of Whigs on the State through banks
 - ➔ Tories try to mobilize in order to win the joint-stock board elections in 1711.
 - Average number of votes for winning candidates for Bank of England directors' election :
 - 1709: 223 ; 1710: 755 ; 1711: 1197 ; 1712 : 384

East India Company

- Old East India
 - Tory Company
- Trading privilege and monopoly provoking jealousy
 - Political contestation
 - “Interlopers” trying to trade with India without authorization
- Secure monopoly
 - Royal charter (confirmed in 1693 for 20 years)
 - Try to obtain a Parliament charter in 1698
 - Offered £700,000 at 4% against parliamentary charter
 - “Cornered” by the interlopers who offered £2,000,000 at 8% to the government and got the deal done (despite higher rate)

The United East India company

- Existence of two East India Companies
 - Old: Tory
 - New: Whig.
 - Political rivalry
 - But pressure for unification
 - Merger signed in 1702, completed in 1709
- Political rivalry becomes internal to United firm
 - Especially with the 1710 political episodes, where Tories try to conquer boards of both joint-stock companies

The South Sea Company

- 1711: created by Harley's Tory minister
- Directors appointed by the queen (therefore by Harley) rather than elected by stockholders
 - Securing the Tory domination on this new firm.

Trading on the London Stock market

- What influences individual market behavior?
 - Institutional setting of the market
 - Characteristics of the financial commodities available on the market
 - Preferences of the market participants
- Theories applied
 - The Law of Indifference (W. Stanley Jevons, 1931)
 - Gary Becker's theory of discrimination (1971)
 - Discrimination a costly preference
 - The Homogeneous Middleman Group Theory (Janet Landa, 1981)
 - Minority population involved in intermediary occupations
 - Homogeneity => Trust
 - Mark Granovetter's (1985) concept of "embeddedness"

Setting of the stock market

- Rapid emergence of London stock market (1680s-1690s)
- Imitating the Dutch market
- Spatial centralization of the stock market
- Increased division of labor (brokers, jobbers, *etc.*)
- Routinization of the contracts and the transactions
- Increasing sophistication of the market
- Conclusion: it looks almost like an ideal place for *homo economicus*

Prices

- Share prices were published regularly in the *Course of the Exchange*
- They were the most important piece of information for the traders and the investors and are equally interesting for the researcher
- Analyzing the data from December 31, 1711 to the end of 1712

Bank of England, United East India Company, and South Sea Company
Share Prices, 1712

Bank of England:

Mean	112.04	Standard Deviation	2.17
Median	112.50	Coefficient of Variation	0.01936
Minimum	107.75	Maximum	117.00

East India Company:

Mean	117.19	Standard Deviation	3.53
Median	117.50	Coefficient of Variation	0.03012
Minimum	109.25	Maximum	124.00

South Sea Company:

Mean	75.83	Standard Deviation	2.74
Median	75.00	Coefficient of Variation	0.03613
Minimum	71.25	Maximum	82.00

Source: Castaing, *Course of the Exchange*.

Why 1712?

- An ordinary year
 - No crash, no boom, no wars, no elections
- Data reasons
 - London Poll books for 1710 and 1713 parliamentary elections (no secret ballot)
 - => indicates by constituencies the votes of electors.
 - Data for political affiliation and guild affiliation

A tendency to endogamous trading

- Do Tories trade with Tories & Whigs with Whigs?
- Log-linear analysis. 3 models
 - a) No effects, b) Quasi-independence, c) Endogamy
 - Quasi independence → significant residual → Endogamy model
- Endogamy hypothesis adds explanation
 - 18% of Tories' trades are with Tories vs 11% of Whigs' trades are with Tories ($\times 1.7$)
 - 58% of Whigs' trades are with Whigs vs 51% of Tories' trades with Whigs ($\times 1.3$)

TABLE 7.6
Party Trading in United East India Company Shares,
and Log-Linear Analysis

	<i>Tories</i>	<i>Whigs</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
<i>Tories</i>	39		
<i>Whigs</i>	221	565	
<i>Unknown</i>	134	610	228

<i>Model</i>	<i>Degrees of Freedom</i>	<i>G²</i>
1. No effects	5	1,071.20
2. Quasi-independence	3	15.78
3. Endogamy	2	2.14

Source: See appendix.

Tendency for endogamous trading

- Stronger among inactive traders than among active traders
 - Active traders closer to the law of indifference
- Stronger among wealthy shareholders
 - Wealthy shareholders more politically involved.

It is due to minorities... But not only

- Minorities trade more with one another at United East India
 - Huguenots, Quakers and Jews' trade 2.2 more with themselves than other groups trade with them
 - Middleman theory
- Minorities close to Whigs and coded as Whigs
- However, when removing minorities ➔ still a substantial tendency for Whigs to trade with Whigs

Things are different at Bank of England

- Ethnic embeddedness is similar to that of United East India Company
- However, no significant political embeddedness
- Discards an economic explanation for endogamy

Explanations of endogamy

- Endogamy as a response to the trading risks?
 - in accordance with the Homogeneous Middleman Group theory
- But...
 - Property rights quite secure
 - Why along party lines rather than other groups of distinction (e.g. the guilds) ?
 - Why more endogamy among the traders of the East India Company shares than England bank
- Therefore, the researcher should look for non-economic explanations

Political explanations of endogamy

- East India Company: company shares
 - ➔ both economic and political rights
- Within-party transactions beneficial
 - not only for the individual traders,
 - but for the party as well
- More active trader less endogamous:
 - ➔ political endogamy has a certain economic price

Why Political Embeddedness in East India Company ?

- East India Company
 - Merge of Old East India Company (Tory) and the New East India Company (Whigs) in 1701-1702.
- 1710-1711: Tories try to take over Bank of England & East India Company
- Shareholders clearly Whig in both
- Directors
 - Bank of England: 82% Whig
 - East India: 52% Whig

City of Capital Conclusions

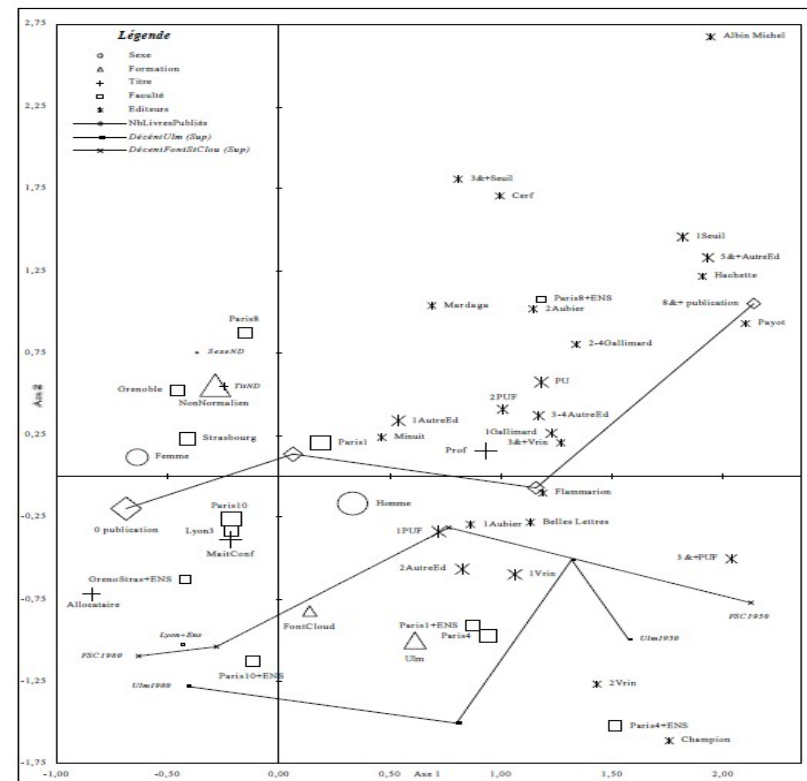
- Political endogamy
 - Not for precise economic ends
 - nor related to other forms of social endogamy
- ... Related to political projects of the participants
- A single historical case ...
- Showing circumstances where politics can organize economic behavior

Egotist examples

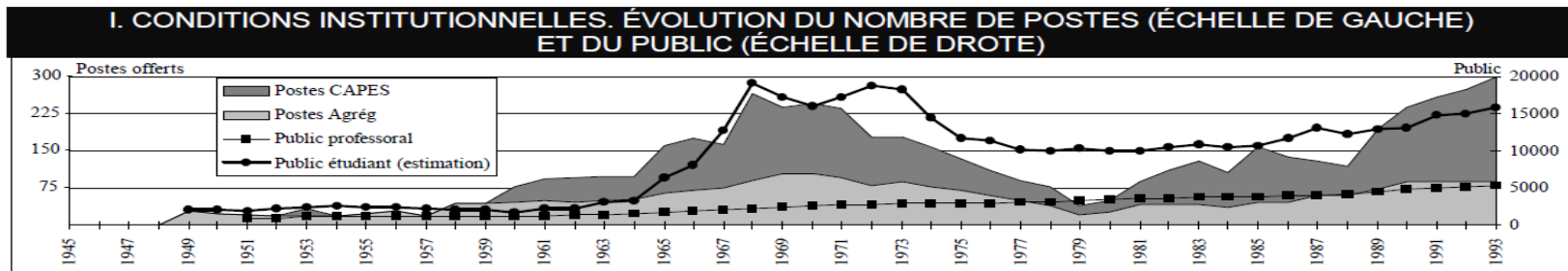
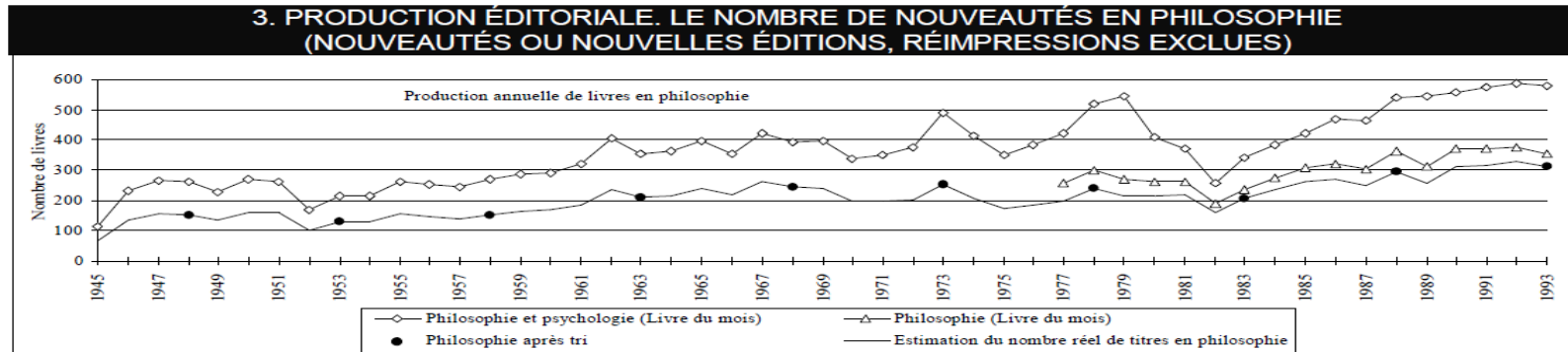
The market of philosophical books in France

1999, « Le marché du livre philosophique », *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales*, n°130, pp. 11-28.

- Early definition of research question:
 - The *nouveaux philosophes* as an intriguing phenomenon
 - Study the structure of the philosophy market
- Sources:
 - First try: BNF's catalogue
 - Unusable. Esoteric texts (Ron Hubbard) within the category...
 - Writing publishers: to give access to their archives → mostly impossible
 - Source : *Bibliographie de la France / Livre Hebdo*
 - Counting all books
 - Every five years, complete database of philosophy books published in a year
 - Author, Title, Publisher, Size, Pages, Price, etc.



- Discovering a strange pattern: a sharp decline in the mid seventies of the production
- Explaining it: evolutions of patterns in academic recruitment
- Failed political reforms of the *baccalauréat*



Material conditions influence content

2. CONDITIONS INSTITUTIONNELLES. LA PRODUCTION DES PRODUCTEURS						
Espérances objectives	1950-1958	1958-1963	1963-1968	1969-1972	1972-1985	1985-1993
E(Agrégation/Étudiant)	Moyenne	Forte	Forte	Moyenne	<i>Faible</i>	Moyenne
E(Assistant, MA, MC/Agrégation)	Moyenne	Moyenne	Forte	Forte	<i>Faible</i>	Moyenne (ENS : forte, autres : faible)
E(Professeur/Assistant, MA, MC)	Moyenne	Moyenne	<i>Faible</i>	Forte	Moyenne	Moyenne

- Very different destiny of successive cohorts
 - Ancient generation had to wait long for climbing the ladder (submissive, history of philosophy)
 - 1968 cohort (Badiou) found all doors open. Chance of being radical without taking any risk
 - Post 1968 (Nouveau Philosophe) cohort bumped into closed doors at university. Reconverted radical disposition into a media related position
 - 1980 cohort faced a more regulated market ➔ return to classics