

**ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
AUGUST 2002**

MORNING SESSION

Part I. Basic Concepts (25 percent of exam grade)

Select **five** of the following concepts. For each concept, succinctly: (1) Explain what the concept means. If there are multiple meanings or contested meanings, you should indicate these. (2) name one or more authors whose work is prominently associated with the concept. (3). Briefly explain the relevance of the concept for sociological theory of the economy.

transaction costs
incomplete/missing markets
efficiency wages
flexible specialization
social capital
rent
Fordism
labor market segmentation
multidivisional corporate form (M-form)

Part II. Labor Markets, work organization (25 percent of exam grade)

(Answer one of the following)

1. Economic restructuring is often described as following either the high road (HPWO) or the low road (casualization). What are the salient properties of each of these forms? How do economic sociologists explain who adopts what practices in response to changes in the economic climate? What are the consequences of each approach to restructuring? How are women and men, racial and ethnic groups, and localities differentially affected by these contrasting approaches?
2. There has been much debate in recent years over the rapid increase in earnings inequality in the United States over the past quarter century. Review the principle arguments and evidence in this debate. On balance, what factors do you feel have been most important in generating this trend?
3. Define contingent work. Based on your definition, how can we best measure the concept? What are the prevailing explanations for the rise of contingent work? Which theory do you believe is supported most by the existing evidence?