

## Written Exam for the B.Sc. or M.Sc. in Economics summer 2012

### **Economic Sociology**

#### Master's Course

##### Exam question

Classical sociological theories like Marx, Durkheim and Weber, as well as modern sociological theories like Bourdieu and Granovetter has contributed to the fundamental ideas in Economic Sociology.

Explain their contribution to the view on society and social analysis one finds in economic sociology – and use especially the more modern theoretical contributions as well as empirical examples to a presentation of economic sociology's view on the role of the market in the economy. Compare and discuss this view on the market with the view found in economic theory.

##### Guideline for answering the exam question

The purpose of the question is for the student to give a detailed and well argued presentation of the contributions to economic sociology made by the theorists mentioned in the exam question. For Marx it is the structure of the capitalist society including the exploitation of workers as a fundamental and unavoidable part of capitalism and workers reaction to this that is important. For Durkheim it is the division of labour in the capitalist society and the way a society with an extensive degree of division of labour can function. For Weber is it the quest for rationality and 'the iron cage of rationality' and what this means for the functioning of society as well as for the individuals possibilities in society that are important. For Bourdieu it is the forms of capital – economic, cultural and social – as well as the development of habitus and how this functions in relation to the market as a field that is important. For Granovetter it is the description of the developments of markets in history as well as the different kinds of markets and their way of functioning that exists in contemporary society that are important.

A good essay contains and elaborates on these parts of the theories. It should deal with all of them but it is allowed to go into more detail with some while others are dealt with in less detail. The market as a social phenomenon create by humans and developed by humans and their interaction is at the core of economic sociology and is seen as opposed to the more theoretical presentation and functioning of the market in economic theory. This should be well described in the good answer – and the very good answer could contain empirical examples of the development and/or functioning of markets that underlines the points on the market taken from economic sociology one the one hand and on the other hand includes a critique of the way the market are treated in economic theory.