



Babylon Teach-in

“Who’s interested in ...?”:

5 December 2013,
10:00-11:30, room D119

“Who’s interested in ... *Pierre Bourdieu’s methodological ambition?*”

Pierre Bourdieu’s oeuvre is very well known, yet a lot of its richness remains unexplored. One of the less explored aspects of his work is the methodological ambition he formulated and reformulated at several moments in his career, to provide a complete and comprehensive analysis of the genesis and development of social structure, which he saw as an answer to Marx’s issue of social being and social consciousness. The development of his methodological trajectory involves crucially (a) the rejection of structuralism in the Levi-Straussian sense; (b) a dialogue on the limits of statistical research, generated by Cicourel’s critique of survey methodologies; (c) a dialogue with ethnography, generated by intense contacts with scholars such as Cicourel, Goffman, Garfinkel and others. Combined, these factors produced a unique methodological ‘loop’ of considerable complexity, but with tremendous potential for the science of society and culture.

READINGS will be distributed ahead of time. Inspiration can, in the meantime, be drawn from the following paper:

TPCS Paper 65 - Jan Blommaert & Fons van de Vijver:

[*Good is not good enough: Combining surveys and ethnographies in the study of rapid social change*](#)