

**Day One**  
**Economic Sociology Area Exam**  
**October 28, 2015**

**Please answer both questions in any order:**

**Money; Question 5:** Attempts to define money can often be partitioned into (a) generic-money and (b) specific-money. These definitions map onto two of the conventional “functions” of contemporary money: (a) unit of account, on one hand, and (b) medium of exchange, on the other. While some attempt to reconcile such definitions with an evolutionary account of money from specific (primitive) to generic (modern), the historical record supports the idea that the unit-of-account actually came before the medium of exchange, and recent work has highlighted that specific money is still prevalent in contemporary societies. Given the persistence of both, is it possible that both definitions are correct? And, how does this relate to the distinction between “modern” and “primitive” monies?

**Meaning; Question 4:** Considering the “cultural turn” in economic sociology as the privileging of “meanings” from the perspective of the actor (largely as an independent rather than a dependent variable), what sorts of critiques emerged of existing accounts of economic activity? What are some of the conceptual difficulties of such an analysis?

**Day Two**  
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**October 29, 2015**

**Please answer both questions in any order:**

**Deviations; Question 6:** What criteria distinguishes the peripheral or anomalous forms of economic activity from more central forms of economic activity? How has, and is, economic sociology incorporating insights from “peripheral” economic activity, and what is the field overlooking?

**Question 1, State of the Discipline:** Although some argue that Granovetter’s work signaled the transfer of the sociological perspective onto *objectstraditionally* analyzed by economists – i.e. markets and the firm (i.e. *substantive* economics), it is actually the case that economic sociology in the last half century has largely been a response to the assumptions of neoclassical economic models (i.e. *formalist* economics). Given this, what are the various starting points for economic sociological explanations? Framing the tasks of economic sociology in this way, what problems emerge and what is overlooked?