Daoud, Adel; Kohl, Sebastian

Working Paper

How much do sociologists write about economic topics? Using big data to test some conventional views in economic sociology, 1890 to 2014

MPIfG Discussion Paper, No. 16/7

Provided in Cooperation with:
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG), Cologne

Suggested Citation: Daoud, Adel; Kohl, Sebastian (2016) : How much do sociologists write about economic topics? Using big data to test some conventional views in economic sociology, 1890 to 2014, MPIfG Discussion Paper, No. 16/7, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne

This Version is available at:
https://hdl.handle.net/10419/141452

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR GESELLSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG
MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIETIES

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MPIfG Discussion Paper 16/7
Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung, Köln
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne
May 2016

MPIfG Discussion Paper
ISSN 0944-2073 (Print)
ISSN 1864-4325 (Internet)

About the authors

Adel Daoud is a researcher at the Department of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg and currently a visiting scholar at the Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge.
Email: daouda@newschool.edu

Sebastian Kohl is a researcher at Uppsala University and the Institute for Housing and Urban Research.
Email: sebastian.kohl@soc.uu.se

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Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies
Paulstr. 3 | 50676 Cologne | Germany

Tel. +49 221 2767-0
Fax +49 221 2767-555

www.mpifg.de
info@mpifg.de

Abstract

Sociological self-understanding is that the frequency of economic topics in sociology has peaked twice: first during the classical era between 1890 and 1920 and second after Mark Granovetter's often cited 1985 article. This paper tests this established view using all JSTOR sociology articles from 1890 to 2014 (142,040 articles, 157 journals). Combined topic and multilevel modeling found strong evidence for the first peak but the proportion of economics topics has also been decreasing over the past century. The emergence of the New Economic Sociology as a subdiscipline of sociology had less to do with an increased focus on general economic issues and more to do with an increased topic mix of organization and social theory. The paper shows that this specific topic mix began to increase from 1929 peaking by 1989 and suggests that the New Economic Sociology, rather than marking the beginning of a second peak, is more a product of the other general currents of organization sociology and social theory. The paper also finds that this subdiscipline is internally diverse in topics and rather male dominated.

Zusammenfassung

Im soziologischen Selbstverständnis gab es zwei Hochphasen in der Häufigkeit der Behandlung von ökonomischen Themen im Rahmen soziologischer Forschung: zunächst in der Zeit der Klassiker zwischen 1890 und 1920 und dann wieder nach Mark Granovetters vielfach zitiertem Artikel von 1985. Das Discussion Paper prüft diese Behauptung unter Verwendung aller bei JSTOR verfügbaren Volltextsoziologieartikel (142.040 Artikel, 157 Zeitschriften). Mithilfe von Topic- und Multilevelmodeling konnten deutliche Belege für die erste Hochphase erbracht werden, wobei der Anteil ökonomischer Themen im Verlauf des vergangenen Jahrhunderts gesunken ist. Das Entstehen der Neuen Wirtschaftssoziologie als Teildisziplin der Soziologie steht weniger im Zusammenhang mit dem verstärktem Augenmerk auf ökonomische Themen als mit einer Kombination aus Organisationsforschung und Sozialtheorie. Das Paper zeichnet Aufkommen und Verbreitung der Kombination dieser Themen von 1929 bis zur Hochphase im Jahr 1989 nach und kommt zu dem Ergebnis, dass die Neue Wirtschaftssoziologie eher aus allgemeinen Strömungen von Organisationssoziologie und Sozialtheorie entstanden ist, als dass sie ein Zeichen für den Beginn einer zweiten Hochphase darstellt. Darüber hinaus wird aufgezeigt, dass die Wirtschaftssoziologie intern themenheterogen ist und tendenziell von männlichen Autoren bearbeitet wird.

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How Much Do Sociologists Write About Economic Topics? Using Big Data to Test Some Conventional Views in Economic Sociology, 1890 to 2014

1 Introduction

The story of the New Economic Sociology is usually presented as a success story: after a dearth of economic topics in the Parsonian era, the subdiscipline experienced an unprecedented Renaissance in the 1980s and particularly after the publication of Mark Granovetter's often cited 1985 article, *Economic Action and Social Structure – The Problem of Embeddedness*. In one of the latest reflections on the state of economic sociology, the entry in the new *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* notes: "Over the past 30 years, economic sociology has erupted into a vibrant and visible subfield as sociologists increasingly apply social theories to study the economy" (Fligstein/Dioun 2015: 4128).

By analyzing all full-text research articles between 1890 and 2014 (n = 142,040) provided through the courtesy of JSTOR, this article scrutinizes this well-established view: does the development of economic topics in sociology really follow a U-shaped trend, and how should we contextualize Granovetter's important publication from a historical perspective? Using topic modeling techniques, we identify a category of a distinctly economic topic, ECON, among the 15 topical categories covering sociological research over the last century. This topical category is, however, by no means dominant in today's sociological journals and has been declining in frequency over the last few decades. A closer look at the contemporary canon of economic sociology, in turn, reveals that its writings combine the topics of organization and social theory, which confirms the internal heterogeneity of the discipline (Beamish 2007: 1000; DiMaggio/Zukin 1990; Daoud/Larsson 2011). Grouping these topics together as economic sociology, labeled ECONSOC, we find that its take-off occurred already during the Parsonian era, peaking in 1989. Thus, no significant positive effect of the post-1985-Granovetter period

Authors' names are in alphabetical order. We thank Pascal Braun, and Hans Ekbrand for their support. The article has profited from its presentation at the Gesis Text Mining Workshop and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in 2015. We thank Lothar Krempel, Étienne Ollion, Michael Reif, Patrik Aspers, Sanjay Reddy, Anton Törnberg, and Petter Törnberg for their helpful comments. The work would not have been possible without JSTOR's efficient provision of data and technical support. Additional material and visualizations can be found at <www.adeldaoud.se>.

can be observed on ECONSOC, which we tested statistically. Our main conclusions are that ECON topics were dominant long before and even outside the framework of the new economic sociology literature, while ECONSOC topics were part of the growing interest in organization sociology and social theory, which then eventually turned their attention also to economic phenomena.

This article thus contributes in several ways to the sociology of sociology by making use of big textual data and techniques in automated text analysis as have already been used for different corpora. First, it complements and goes beyond existing bibliometric research because it exploits full-text information. Second, it complements manually-coded content analyses because it exploits data beyond single years in the few flagship journals. The high fluctuation of topics between adjacent years and the topic-cleavage between the few elite and the mainstream journals throws some doubt on the generalizability of work based on selective manual coding. Finally, our approach offers a counterweight to the literature within economic sociology itself where the many claims about developments in the applied literature, the state of the art, and possible futures for economic sociology are rarely accompanied by an empirically grounded sociology of science but rather by anecdotic evidence and personal impressions of the authors involved (see e.g., Beamish 2007). Like much history of sociology in general, the history of economic sociology is written as a history of theories and thinkers (Platt 2010) but not as one of scientific journals and publishing practices. Our article thus helps to enrich the self-interpretations of the discipline.

The sociology of any sociological subdiscipline is important not only because it implicitly guides researchers' self-interpretation and academic identity, but because it often helps legitimize the existence and support of certain disciplines. Disciplines often emerge as an intended cure to the supposed faults and deficits of existing ones (Abbott 2001). Meta-studies about the past successes of disciplines are used to attract research money. Disciplinary history is therefore not a politically neutral field; it is often undertaken by insiders and does not always necessarily live up to standards of scientific rigor. Our approach helps achieve some objectifying distance to this intra-disciplinary production of history and assures higher reliability.

The internal fragmentation of sociology has further led scholars to overrate the absolute growth of their own subdiscipline, while losing sight of the generally enormous expansion of sociology and its publication outlets over the last few decades. The extreme and ongoing division of labor in scientific disciplines such as sociology makes it impossible for individual authors to read the entire output of a discipline, even of some subdisciplines. A researcher would need to spend her entire lifetime to read the corpus we analyze. Meanwhile, a similar corpus would have been produced without the researcher having herself written anything. This suggests that tools of automated text analyses might be of use which, if we accept losing some qualitative information, increase the number of documents covered exponentially.

To account for our claims, we proceed in the next section to derive five central propositions from the existing literature on the sociology of (economic) sociology. The third section presents the data on sociological journal articles and the methods we used (topic modeling and multilevel modeling). Section four tests the five propositions outlined. In the last section, we discuss the implications of our findings and suggest further research beyond the current study framework.

2 Literature background

Ever since Albion Small's writings (1916), sociologists themselves have written histories about their discipline, often as a side activity, while historians started working on social science history in the 1970s (see Sica 2007). The history of a discipline can be written in different ways: as topic history, theory history, institutional or bibliometric history. We will briefly turn to each of these strands of literatures, report their existing findings on economic sociology in particular, and derive five propositions for further testing.

The first, the topic history approach, describes a discipline's trajectory in terms of clusters or research agenda. Ever since the 1930s, content-analysis techniques of the major journals have been used to describe developments in the entire discipline (Becker 1930; Shanas 1945; McCartney 1970; Champion/Morris 1973; Garnett 1988; Logan 1988; Sieg 2002: 111f.; Abend/Petre/Sauder 2013; Abend 2006), while similar works on the content of books have been rare (Gans 1997). A common presupposition of this literature is that it is indeed possible to isolate clearly distinct topics in the literature, a step which requires a certain degree of specialization in the discipline. The establishment of clearly distinguishable subtopics in sociology goes back to the 1920s (Hinkle/Hinkle 1960: 51). This trend has continued ever since to the point at which the discipline has reached a state of hyper-specialization that has turned the sociological enterprise into a conglomeration of numerous subdisciplines (Turner 2006). Regretted by some as theoretical fragmentation (Collins 1986), lauded as increasing professionalism by others, the tendency towards more subdisciplines can also be said to leave sociology without a core of common citations (Hargens 1991; Crane/Small 1992; Oromaner 2008): the discipline is no longer tied together by overarching theory or by the big three flagship journals, *American Journal of Sociology* (AJS), *American Sociological Review* (ASR) and *Social Forces* (SF). Although economic categories almost always appear among the coded categories in content analyses, they have not been subject to particular attention by the authors. A precondition for a history of economic topics in sociology is to clearly single out and separate these topics from others. Thus, the first proposition that we will test is as follows:

Proposition 1 (Specialization proposition)*: Economic topics can be singled out from general sociology, i.e., economic sociology can be captured as a topic specialization within the discipline.*

With regard to the field of economic sociology more specifically, few content analyses have been undertaken for the late twentieth century. The most common self-description of the discipline is that it is one of the "most vibrant" fields of sociology, if not *the* most vibrant – a description also found in one of its latest state-of-the-art reports (Aspers/Dodd/Anderberg 2015: 2). Empirical studies supporting or weakening this self-description are rare. In their analyzis of a selective sample of manually coded American and German sociology articles from the main journals in some of the years between 1974 and 2005, Beckert and Besedowsky (2009) show that the portion of economic topics increases from the 1970s onwards, with the largest increase occurring in the late 1970s to the early 1980s. They also find that the share of articles with dependent economic variables grows and that firms and markets become increasingly important as topics from the 1980s onwards, while the number of economic sociology theories (network, institutionalism, cultural sociology) rises from this point on.[1]

A content analysis of economic topics in French sociology reveals a similar sociological retreat from economic topics after Durkheim's legacy faded. Between 1960 and 1980, less than 2 percent of the articles and book reviews in the *Revue française de sociologie* were distinctly economic, and their share increased only in the 1980s (Heilbron 1999). Even in the traditionally Durkheimian *Année sociologique*, the number of economic topics is very volatile between 1949 and 1980 and is, on average, far lower than that of work-related themes, as based on the mentions in the journal's index. Moreover, economic topics tend to be dealt with by non-sociologists (Steiner 2005). Findings for the other major French sociology journals for the pre-1980 period are similar: even though economic topics appear, they are far from being major or regularly appearing topics, whereas economics dominates the field in the *Revue économique* (ibid.). We derive from these studies the following proposition:

Proposition 2 (Prevalence proposition)*: Economic topics have become more important than (all) other topics over the last three decades and have grown in importance.*

The second and probably the most frequent historical approach to sociology, as found in general sociology books, textbooks, or specialized journals, consists of a history of theories and approaches (e.g. Turner 2013).[2] An obvious problem with this approach

1 In Germany, most of these developments are less pronounced and roughly lag by a decade. An earlier study of the three major German journals between 1948 and 1977, however, identified industrial sociology and social class as the most important topics (Lüschen 1979). This latter finding for Germany corresponds with our findings for the English-language journals.

2 As a subfield, one can also discern sociology's history in terms of research methods (Platt 1998). Another widely reported finding in the literature is a tendency toward quantification, regression analysis and positivistic meta-theory (Platt 2016).

is that theory production makes up only a small part of all writings and has even been shown to be detached from actual research (Menzies 1982; Sica 1989). In the historiography of economic sociology, this focus on the study of classical authors and the depiction of the subdisciplinary history as a sequence of theories and approaches has undoubtedly been dominant. The resulting and generally accepted view of economic sociology's place within the overall discipline is roughly the following (Swedberg 1987: 17; Beckert 2002: 1f.; Steiner 2007: 3; Gislain/Steiner 1995: 198).

While the nineteenth-century classics worked primarily on economic topics, by the 1920s,

> sociology became what early Chicago sociologist Albion Small called the 'science of leftovers,' backing off of the economic and political spheres and focusing on such unclaimed subjects as the family, deviance, crime, and urban pathology. […] Thus, by 1920, both European and American sociologists were occupied with subjects far removed from the core concerns of economics. The separation of the disciplines was well underway before Talcott Parsons came on the scene, but Parsons' influence reinforced and solidified that separation.
> (Granovetter 1990: 89, 90)

While some economic topics were only kept selectively alive between 1940 and 1970 in the fields of industrial sociology, Marxism, and Third-World studies (Guillén et al. 2003:4f.), they again appeared on the sociological agenda in the wake of the end of the Parsonian era, the end of the Keynesian consensus, the defense against economic imperialism, and the economic crisis of the 1970s (Beckert 2007: 5f.; Fourcade 2007: 1015; Beckert/Diaz-Bone/Ganßmann 2007: 21ff.), supposedly making the subdiscipline one of the most stimulating fields within sociology (Beckert/Deutschmann 2010: 7; Sparsam 2015: 53). The precise date of this rebirth is difficult to ascertain, but

> [i]f one nonetheless were to choose one single year as the birthdate for New Economic Sociology, it would be 1985 since this was the year when the term 'New Economic Sociology' was born and also the year when Mark Granovetter's article appeared that was soon to become the most popular article of all in contemporary economic sociology. (Swedberg 1997: 162 [quote]; Granovetter 1985)

Granovetter's article became one of the most cited articles in the discipline (Healy 2014) and ranks first in a syllabus analysis of economic sociology (Wang 2012). Out of this literature we derive the third proposition about the long-term development:

Proposition 3 (U-shape proposition)*: The frequency of economic topics in sociology follows a U-shaped curve between the end of the nineteenth century and today, with the bottom of the U representing the Parsonian era.*

A third approach in a discipline's historiography concerns institutional history, which addresses questions about the establishment of departments (Abbott 1999), financial support structures (Turner/Turner 1990), professional organizations (Simpson/Simpson 1994), common research networks, conferences, teaching, or publications. This re-

search also supports the specialization view of the discipline, as reflected in growing subsections of the American Sociological Association (ASA; Ollion 2011). In this respect, economic sociology's growth has been recently documented in terms of a special ASA section, rising membership, and specialized research networks (Fligstein 2015). The rise of the New Economic Sociology has also been addressed in this historiographic perspective through the use of institutional and biographical data on 31 key contributors to this subdiscipline. Thus, Convert and Heilbron (2007) explain that its emergence was facilitated by the demise of existing dominant paradigms such as functionalism, by the increasing number of sociologists in general and those working at business schools in particular, and by the financial support of the Russell Sage Foundation. They also identify male researchers as constituting the core behind economic sociology. It is from this last point that we derive another proposition.

Proposition 4 (Gender proposition)*: Economic topics in sociology are predominantly addressed by male researchers.*

A fourth approach to scientific history is bibliometric. Thus, citation analyses are used to find out about clusters of topics through co-citations or authorships patterns. Historiographs enable us to trace concepts over time through citations (Garfield/Sher/Torpie 1964; Garfield/Pudovkin/Istomin 2003). Main findings, however, usually concern the language, age, or format (monograph, article) of citations, the degree of interdisciplinarity, authorship networks, gender effects, or other formal patterns of citations (e.g. Rosenberg 2015). Sometimes these also concern citation's content, such as the qualitative–quantitative divide in sociology (Swygart-Hobaugh 2004). Historiographs are able to trace topics through citation links based on the keyword searches offered in databases such as the Web of Science. Lietz (2015), for example, uses 27,760 Web-of-Science articles containing the words "social network" and found that the relative frequency of network-related economic sociology articles decreased or stagnated starting in the second half of the twentieth century. A syllabus citation analysis found a distinction could be drawn in economic sociology between classical topics and authors, on one side, and more modern ones, on the other (Wang 2012): it further identified various cores within the discipline. This confirms the general claim about economic sociology's fragmentation into different subtopics (Aspers/Dodd/Anderberg 2015), sometimes described as different types of embeddedness (DiMaggio/Zukin 1990). From this we derive our last proposition.

Proposition 5 (Heterogeneity proposition)*: Economic sociology displays a diversity of internal topics.*

Our topic model approach has a close kinship to the content analysis approach and complements much of the bibliometric literature. It takes advantage of the entire content of the published articles and creates links between articles through common *semantic* structures, rather than relying on patterns of citations, authorship, titles, or keywords. Thus, our model is richer in terms of discerning the semantic content that actually ties together certain texts over time.

While the potential of topic modeling is still in an exploratory phase (Ramage et al. 2009), economic sociologists themselves have already used the topic modeling algorithm in some recent empirical studies (Fligstein/Brundage/Schultz 2014; DiMaggio/Nag/Blei 2013). Other scholars have extended its use even further. For example, it has been applied to various scientific disciplines (McFarland et al. 2013; Teich et al. 2015, Argamon, Dodick, and Chase 2008), but also to newspaper or historical-document corpora (McCallum/Corrada-Emmanuel 2007; Block 2006), social media (Zhao et al. 2011), and fictional texts (Blevins 2010). Using an approach closest to our own, Bleier/Strotmann (2013) investigate 100 years of German sociology through the yearly proceedings of the German Sociological Society. However, the purpose of many of these analyses lies more in introducing and probing a new method than in making a contribution to existing debates in the sociology of science.

In the next section, we outline in greater detail what data we will use to test our five propositions, the details of the topic modeling technique, and why we also deploy multilevel regression.

3 Research design, data and methodology

Data: The full-text JSTOR articles between 1890 and 2014

Our original data consist of 142,040 full-text sociology[3] research articles from 157 journals that were published between 1890 and 2014, as provided by the "Data for Research" program of JSTOR and accessed on 12 December 2014. The last two to three years of articles often still lie beyond JSTOR's "moving wall" of granted access by publishers. JSTOR is known for offering the largest retrospective digitalization in the social sciences and is the most complete non-profit provider of such information (Sanders 2012: 39). The article coverage starts with the *Annuals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* in 1890, and its exponential growth over time reflects the overall growth of the discipline and its publications.[4]

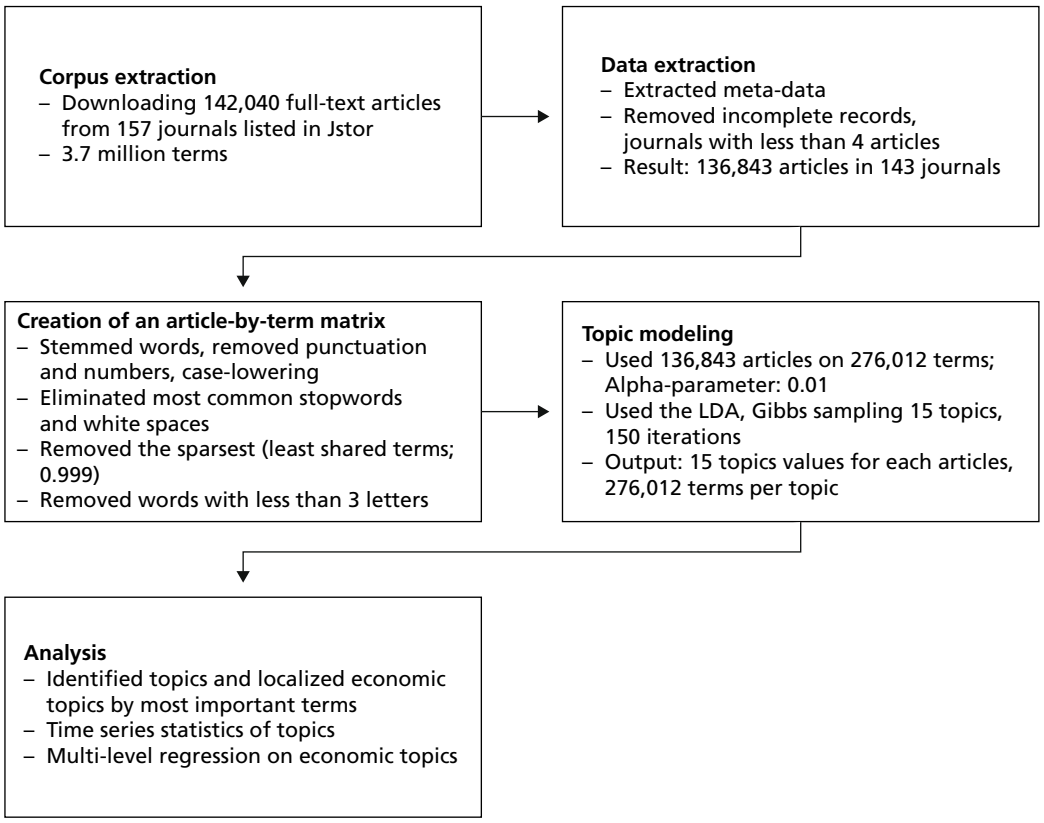
We cleaned and organized the data in the following steps, see Figure 1.[5] First, data was downloaded as HTML-string objects from the JSTOR data repository. Second, we extracted meta-data about the articles using regular expressions, deleted journals with

3 What counts as a "sociology" journal is, in fact, also determined by automated content-analysis procedures (personal communication from JSTOR, 21 August 2015).

4 See Appendix, Table A-1 and Figure A-1 for coverage details.

5 The full-text articles were cleaned, organized, and analyzed using the R programming language accompanied by a variety of packages, most notably: the *tm* (text mining) package for management of the text corpus (Meyer/Hornik/Feinerer 2008); the *dplyr* package for general data management (Wickham/François 2005); the *topicmodels* package for estimating latent topics

Figure 1 Flow-Chart of how we transformed the data



little coverage or lacking meta-data, leaving 136,843 articles from 143 journals. Third, we created a document-term matrix, which consists of all the word types contained in the articles. We removed common words using the tm-package's stopword list, as well as numbers, white space, and punctuation from this matrix. We also stemmed all the terms. After applying these procedures, we still had about 3.7 million common terms. We further removed all spare terms, that is, those not shared by many documents. We also removed terms with less than 0.001 % prevalence rate, which left us with 216,406 terms.[6] These are the terms that we then fed to the topic model.

Any data, even the big data we have set up for this paper, is but a sample from a larger population and has, therefore, an own underlying data generating process that needs to be made explicit. First, we analyzed only articles written in English and therefore included only English-language articles from the most important non-English-language journals, such as *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales, Revue française de socio-écono-*

(Hornik/Grün 2011); *ggplot2* for graphical outputs; and *R2MLwiN* accompanied by the *MLwiN* software to fit multilevel growth models (Rasbash et al. 2015).

6 We experimented with different thresholds and found that this 0.001 %-prevalence rate provided enough words to satisfactorily distinguish variety between articles. When we applied the topic modelling algorithm to the 3.7 million terms, we never managed to get the model to converge – even after running it for about six weeks.

mie, Revue française de sociologie, Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie, Zeitschrift für Soziologie and *Stato e mercato*. There were countries where economic sociology has been more or less pronounced, also in their national journals, that are not covered here (Heilbron 1999; Beckert 2000; Barbera 2002). The reason we focus exclusively on English articles is that the quantitative text-mining technique should only be applied to one language at a time. This selectivity can also be justified by the fact that the English-speaking social science journals make up 85.3 percent of all refereed journals in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory 2004 (Gingras/Mosbah-Natanson 2010). Moreover, in the years 1990–92, the United States and United Kingdom alone produced 64.5 percent of all sociology articles, and they received 84.6 percent of all citations in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI; Glänzel 1996: 298).[7] This language bias also involves a geographic bias of topics favoring US topics, as noted in the literature (Kennedy/Centeno 2007).

Second, even in the English-speaking world, we do not cover all journals and all years; there are well-known difficulties in accessing the entire population of sociology journals. There is no indexing service that covers all self-declared sociology journals; instead, many lists include numerous self-declared, non-sociological journals. The journal population is constantly changing, and sociology content is also published in places other than those publications considered proper sociology journals (Bell 1967; Hardin 1977: 32f.). For instance, in the 1980s, there were 48 new journals and 32 cessations in the Ulrich's directory, creating a total of 245 journals in sociology and some adjacent disciplines (Hargens 1991). Over time, the overall number has grown tremendously (Platt 2010). Albion Small counted 16 sociology journals in 1916 (Small 1916: 786), and the *Journals-of-the-century* project (Rudasill 2001) counts 87 titles for 1932 in Ulrich's index, 280 in 1963, and 1,500 titles in 1998 worldwide, although this also includes non-peer-reviewed and popular journals. "Journalseek" lists 385 scientific journals in sociology proper worldwide. This included interdisciplinary journals. The German "Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek" lists 5,751 sociology journals globally, using a broad definition. These numbers reflect the upper boundary and include many non-refereed journals from all kinds of adjacent disciplines.

Some comparisons with databases other than JSTOR are also revealing. SocIndex is probably the most encompassing sociological research database with almost 900 full-text journals with 700,208 English articles for the period 1895–2015 (SocIndex, 13 July, 2015). A closer look reveals that this larger number of journals and articles is mostly achieved by extending sociology to the neighboring fields of psychology, criminology, and regional studies, to name a few. The well-known Web of Science Core Collection,

7 This high number of English-language citations is also behind the explicit language bias of the SSCI construction (Crane/Small 1992: 201). For the even stronger dominance of English in the SSCI and UNESCO DARE databases in the 1990s, see (Narvaez-Berthelemot/Russell 2001); for the dominance of English in the IBSS bibliography of social science books, see (Kishida/Matsui 1997).

in turn, lists 139,773 articles for "sociology" from the nineteenth century to 2015, which closely resembles our JSTOR data volume. The Social Science Citation Index (SCCI) lists 142 journals in sociology (2015), 31 of which intersect with our corpus because the SCCI also includes many non-English journals. The intersection set includes well-known, highly ranked sociology journals, while no clear topic-related pattern distinguishes the non-intersecting journals. A shortcoming of our corpus is the absence of some newer journals associated with economic sociology,[8] such as *Socio-economic Review*, but others are included, such as *Society and Economy, Review of Social Economy*, and the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*. Since other non-economic-sociology journals were also not recently included and since this concerns only the most recent period, one cannot speak of a systematic distortion of the entire corpus. Finally, the Scopus database lists 1.7 million articles in "social sciences" since 1960, while no further discipline-refinement is possible.

While these purely quantitative comparisons might suggest that our corpus is small, some qualitative observations prove this to be wrong. First of all, our corpus covers the three big American (and two major British) journals used in previous sociological studies of sociology (Gaston/Zelditch 1979; Crothers 2011). They mostly represent general sociological themes produced at a few elite universities (Weeber 2006) and are often not in line with ASA section membership proportions (Angèle/Ollion 2012: 22). However, sociology is a discipline where, due to restricted top-journal space (Chubin 1975) and a reproached bias of article selection by top journals (Becker 1990; Karides et al. 2001), the periphery of specialized journals and mass universities has remained equally important (Hargens 1991; Oromaner 2008).[9] One reason for this is also the tendency of important authors in the social sciences to avoid the major journals (Gans/Shepherd 1994: 170). There is also evidence that broader accessibility and easier access have made non-elite journals more important (Acharya et al. 2014). It is therefore important for any study in sociology claiming to be representative to go beyond the narrow core of journals and include the world of well-known specialized journals. Their impact factors all lie between 0.5 and 1.5, and the volatile rankings are of no further help to sort them (Best 2015). We refer to such representative specialized journals, mentioned by Oromaner (2008), as *Social Problems*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Sociology of Education*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* or the *Annual Review of Sociology*, *The American Sociologist*, *Theory and Society*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociometry*, *Acta Sociologica*, *Social Research*, and *Social Science Quarterly*, which are all covered by our JSTOR sample for their entire historical time span. Beyond this important set of specialized journals, we cover a periphery of changing journals, of which the average sociologist is unlikely to have heard of, such as *Aula*, *Contexts*, or *Contagion*. The demarcation lines of this disciplinary periphery are difficult to draw, but it also makes up only a minority in our corpus.

8 See: http://econsoc.mpifg.de/journals.asp.

9 Similarly, the *American Political Science Journal* has been found to no longer represent its discipline (Sigelman 2006).

Third, while we go beyond bibliometric analyses that do not use the textual body of articles (and for pre-1991 articles not even abstracts), we do not analyze books, only review articles such as in the *Annual Review* or book reviews as contained in *Contemporary Sociology*. Sociology still is a two-genre discipline of both journals and books, with considerable citations coming from books (Line 1981; Wolfe 1990; Clemens et al. 1995; Mochnacki/Segaert/Mclaughlin 2009; Moksony/Hegedűs/Császár 2014). Though these studies found systematic differences for book or article departments, the New Economic Sociology has not been found to matter in this regard. The article approach, however, excludes many of classical works in sociology that were published in book form. Yet two indications suggest that this is not necessarily a worrisome selectivity. First, we find high values for economic topics in the classical period in spite of them being mostly outside of our corpus. This possibly reflects the fact that citations of books in journals and book reviews lead to an indirect measurement of book topics. Second and most importantly, studies examining topics in books and articles over the same time period have not found substantial differences across the publication forms in terms of subject matter (Lüschen 1979; Clemens et al. 1995). We find a similar result in our analysis, when comparing, for instance, *Contemporary Sociology*, ASR's outsourced review section, with the topics in its main journal (cf. Figure A-2, Appendix).

These three limitations – English-language centeredness, a sample of journals, no book corpus – should be kept in mind when interpreting and generalizing the results. In principle, these are not unsolvable limitations, but any research project of this size is faced with them. In the last section we will point to some ways in which future research will be able to deal with these limitations.

Topic modeling: Measuring the topical orientation of sociology articles

As pointed out by DiMaggio/Nag/Blei (2013), sociologists analyze text using one of three approaches: the qualitative reading of text, the semi-structured qualitative reading with a coding sheet, or fully automated algorithmic analyses. One of the main limitations of the first approach is linked mainly to the difficulty of producing reproducible results. Two of the limitations of the second approach are its impracticality for large corpora: we have about 140,000 articles, and if one would spend two hours to read each article without doing anything else (eating, sleeping, publishing etc.), it would take about 32 years to get through our corpus – without even producing an analysis of the articles. Moreover, it would also be difficult to achieve a reasonable degree of inter-coder reliability were one to employ several coders instead. The main limitation of the third approach is that the meaning of a text (an article) is reduced to its constitutive words (keywords), without necessarily looking at the discursive, contextual, and linguistic relations between these words. Frequency-based content analysis is an example of such an approach (Jockers 2014: 73ff.). What we need are approaches that satisfy four desiderata (DiMaggio/Nag/Blei 2013): first, they must be *explicit*, which means that data and esti-

mation methods are reproducible and transparent; second, they need to be *automated* in order to allow for the analysis of large corpora; third, they must be *inductive* to allow for discovery of underlying structures and so for (qualitative or quantitative) hypothesis testing; fourth, the approaches must *account for the relationality of meaning* across varying discursive and linguistic contexts. Topic modeling fulfills all these conditions (Blei/Nag/Jordan 2003; Blei/Lafferty 2007).

The basic idea behind topic modeling is that of a bag of words.[10] This means that the order of the words in a document is not exploited for information. The main assumption behind this reasoning is that there are certain given latent topics that inform a given field (e.g., sociology) and that condition the writing of documents (e.g., articles). Each topic has a list of all terms which are assigned a certain probability (with non-zero probability for all terms, adding up to one); in turn, each document has a probability score on every (also adding up to one). The "writing process of a document," from the perspective of the bag of words approach, can then be described in the following steps, assuming here that we have 15 topics: first, we take a random document in the field of sociology and roll a die with 15-sides (15 topics) so that the likelihood of each side is equal to that particular documents probability score – in other words, it is a die weighted to show how likely a document belongs to the 15 topics. Imagine that our die showed topic 5. Second, we go to topic 5 and roll another die, only now one with sides equal to the number of terms (assume that we have 3,000 terms) and weighted according to the probability distribution of terms across that topic. Imagine that we roll the 3000-sided die and we get the word "market." Third, we assign the term "market" to our document and re-do the whole process again until we fill up all the so-called tokens of that document. Tokens are the number of term-slots that a document has (i.e. the length of the document): we may re-use a term in the process described above. Accordingly, a document scores on all the topics (document-topic matrix) with a certain probability – adding up to 1 for each document; all topics score to all terms (topic-term matrix) with a certain probability – adding up to 1 for each topic.

The central task of the topic modeling algorithm is to estimate these probabilities. In the example above, all parameters were assumed. There are several estimation algorithms determining these probabilities, but the most common one, also used in this paper, is called Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA), which is underpinned by Bayesian statistical theory. LDA has a relational and machine-learning approach to modeling language. The algorithm will seek to find structure in the corpus by co-occurrences between words with respect to how they cluster in documents. This forces the algorithm to take into account the relational aspect in the corpus. The only observed data are words and documents, whereas topics and the probabilities are estimated. As DiMaggio/Nag/Blei (2013: 578) describe:

10 There are several pedagogical or technical introductions to how topic models work and examples of its application (Newman et al. 2006; Fligstein/Brundage/Schultz 2014); we will give only a brief primer here.

> LDA takes a relational approach to meaning, in the sense that co-occurrences are important in the assignment of words to topics. Intuitively, in order to capture these patterns of co-occurrence, LDA trades off two goals: first, for each document, allocate its observed words to few topics; second, for each topic, assign high probability to few words from the vocabulary. Notice that these goals are at odds. Consider a document that exhibits one topic. Its observed words must all have probability under that topic, making it harder to give few words high probability. Now consider a set of topics, each of which has very few words with high probability; documents must be allocated to several topics to explain those observations, making it harder to assign documents to few topics. LDA finds good topics by trading off these goals.

An important premise to bear in mind is that the number of topics has to be specified by the researchers manually, which some have suggested to be problematic (Schmidt 2013). However, we argue that this manual specification does not pose a problem *per se*. We regard topic modeling as a way of solving a jigsaw puzzle: whether the puzzle consists of 20 pieces or 2000 pieces, it will always reconstruct the exact same picture. To ensure interpretability, and similarly to DiMaggio/Nag/Blei (2013) and Fligstein/Brundage/Schultz (2014), we kept our topics to a relatively low number, in our case 15. This number merely defines the number of clusters into which we want the algorithm to order the terms of the articles and subsequently the topic distribution across each article. We found 15 topics to be convenient in the analysis because the major terms for one topic were semantically quite homogeneous and sufficiently distinct from other topics.[11] Previous manual journal content analyses have worked within a similar range of head categories (Kinloch 1988).

Another manual choice that we had to make is to set the so-called α-parameter. This parameter defines the prior Dirichlet distribution the model assumes. We set the α-parameter to 0.01. The lower the α-parameter, the more concentrated will be the topic distribution that the model assumes for each article. This means that the model will try to assign, or concentrate, the topic distribution for each article – a concentration on fewer topics but never zero. Conversely, the higher the α-parameter, the more uniform the topic distribution will be across each article. We have experimented with various topic numbers and α-parameters; we still found the results to be robust for the value we have chosen.[12] Lastly, we estimated the model using Gibbs sampling as implemented in a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) technique, which we ran for 150 iterations.

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11 The fact that most countries' sociology associations are split into 10–15 sections further supports our choice (Bannister 2008). The ASA had already more than 50 sections in the 1970s, but this often represents political rather than substantive distinction; a cluster analysis of members' preferences (Ennis 1992) or their co-memberships in sections (Cappell/Guterbock 1992) even reduced them to only seven topics.

12 A model with arbitrarily high α-parameter value will force the articles to have a uniform topic distribution with 1/15 probability in each topic: equal likelihood that an article belongs to all 15 topics. This happens because the α-parameter regulates how much prior distribution should be assigned to an article for each topic. Therefore, the lower the α-parameter is, the more the data (the text) will influence the outcome. Conversely, the higher the α-parameter is (the prior distribution), the less the data will influence the outcome of the model.

Multilevel modeling: Formal evaluation of the topical trend of sociology

While topic modeling measures the topical orientation in the discipline of sociology, it lacks standardized mechanisms to formally test the growth of the economic topics in sociology (viz. the U-shape proposition). It also lacks mechanisms to control for confounders. We will, therefore, complement the topic model analysis with a statistical regression analysis in order to estimate the time trends and to control for some confounding variables, such as journal clustering and article page length. It might be the case that the overall effect is driven by some journals, or it could be that longer articles are having some un-proportional effect on the time trend. We aim to extend this list of control variables in the future. We rely specifically on multilevel modeling because it allows us to capture the time-trend of the economic orientation of sociology as well as control for the journal clustering of articles (Singer/Willett 2003; Steele 2014).

We chose multilevel models over fixed effect models because we want to estimate the variation both within and between journals to determine their relative importance. When the model is defined correctly, it can properly estimate what a fixed effect model can do (capture time-varying effects) and other more useful estimations (time-invariant effects, partition lower and higher level variance, clustering effects, etc.; Bell/Jones 2014).

We defined the following baseline multilevel model with the following fixed part:[13]

$$\begin{aligned} ECON_{aj} = {} & \beta_1 1890to1920_{aj} + \beta_{2j} 1921to1984_{aj} + \beta_{3j} 1985to2014_{aj} \\ & + \beta_4 1890to1920_{slope_{aj}} + \beta_{5j} 1921to1984_{slope_{aj}} \\ & + \beta_{6j} 1985to2014_{slope_{aj}} + \beta_7 Pages_{aj} + \varepsilon_{aj} \end{aligned}$$

With the following random part:[14]

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{2j} &= \beta_2 + u_{2j} \\ \beta_{3j} &= \beta_3 + u_{3j} \\ \beta_{5j} &= \beta_5 + u_{5j} \\ \beta_{6j} &= \beta_6 + u_{6j} \end{aligned}$$

13 Note the terminological difference between a *fixed effects models* and the *fixed part of multilevel modelling*. A fixed effects model is a type of regression, whereas the fixed part of a multilevel model captures the average effect of the specified variables.

14 Whereas the fixed part captures the average estimated effect, the random part captures how the effect is distributed (deviates) for each and every case (articles and journals).

And we assume that both the higher level random terms (σ^2_{u2}, σ^2_{u3}, σ^2_{u5}, σ^2_{u6}) and lower level variance (σ^2_{ε}) are normally distributed with mean zero and are uncorrelated with the fixed effect parameters. The random terms are allowed to co-vary (captured by the covariance parameters σ_{u2u3}, σ_{u2u5} etc.), such as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_{2j} \\ u_{3j} \\ u_{5j} \\ u_{6j} \end{bmatrix} \sim N\left(0, \begin{vmatrix} \sigma^2_{u2} & & & \\ \sigma_{u2u3} & \sigma^2_{u3} & & \\ \sigma_{u2u5} & \sigma_{u3u5} & \sigma^2_{u5} & \\ \sigma_{u2u6} & \sigma_{u3u6} & \sigma_{u5u6} & \sigma^2_{u6} \end{vmatrix}\right)$$

$$\left[\varepsilon_{aj}\right] \sim N(0, \sigma^2_{\varepsilon})$$

The dependent variables are captured by the term $ECON_{aj}$ which measures the economic orientation of a particular article and will be derived from the topic model output. We test both ECON and ECONSOC. The index *a* is the article identifier: it runs from [1, 2, …136843] – the total valid articles in our sample. The index *j* is the journal identifier: it runs from [1, 2, … 143] – covering all the journals in our sample. This also means that all the articles (136,843) are hierarchically nested in 143 journals. Moreover, the values of $ECON_{aj}$ runs from 0 to 1 since it is a proportion variable. Higher values indicate that article *a* in journal *j* has a larger economic orientation than lower values.

The focal independent variables are the era-variables, which are defined as the mean (intercepts) economic orientation during the eras *1890to1920,1921to1984*, and *1985to2014*, respectively; the other three are defined as the trend (slopes) of the economic orientation of articles during the *1890to1920slope,1921to1984slope*, and *1985to2014slope*, respectively. The variables estimating the mean are all defined as dummy variables; the variables estimating the slope are timer-variables that count in decimal years (omitting leap years) when the article was published in the relevant era. For example, an article published in mid-1986 will have a counter value of 1.5 (one and a half years): it counts the difference of when the era starts and the date when the article was published in that relevant era. If the general story described by the standard narrative of economic sociology is correct, the classical era should have a high *1890to1920* value with an increasing *1890to1920slope*, the intermediary era should have a lower *1921to1984* value with a decreasing *1921to1984slope*, and the New Sociological era should have again a high *1985to2014* value and an increasing *1985to2014slope*.

We also test some polynomial versions of the model defined above: quadratic, cubic, quartic, and quintic. These allow us to test where the topical maxima and minima occur exactly. It is a less strict version of the spline model above.

4 Analysis and results

Proposition 1: Specialization

To test the first proposition about an identifiable economic topic, we first report the basic results of our topic model that we ran with 150 iterations on the basis of 276,012 terms and 136,843 articles. Table 1 displays the 15 topics with their 50 most characteristic terms. All terms receive a probability with which they contribute to each topic and probabilities add up to one for each topic. These first 50 terms cumulate to joint probabilities of between 15 and 30 percent and can therefore be considered crucial for the content of each topic. This group of results is robust since we could reproduce the same result with a smaller random sample.

To determine the topic headings of Table 1 and thus to interpret the model, we started from our understanding of the key terms characterizing them. We ignore the words that are not nouns because they do not carry much meaning. As it turns out, most lists of terms point us to common subdisciplines in sociology, such as the sociology of education, sociology of religion, gender and family sociology, occupational sociology, sociology of deviance, social theory or else political sociology. Topic 7, which we labeled "economic" or ECON, for short, is prima facie the one most characterized by economic terms.

To support this initial impression, we further consulted the lists of articles that loaded the highest on the respective topics. Table 2 presents these top articles published in AJS and ASR for the ECON topic, and the corresponding tables for the topics "public" (Table A-2) and "organization" (Table A-3) are in the Appendix.

An inspection of the titles[15] and an even more in-depth inspection of the articles and the authors show ECON to be mainly about basic empirical work on economic matters and can be subsumed under a broad tradition in political economy. Until the 1950s, sociological authors were often part of general departments of political economy, frequented annual conferences of American economists, and published on similar empirical economic topics such as wages and unionism, price cycles, or demographic and agricultural issues (Young 2009; Backhouse/Fontaine 2010: 186). Economic topics were not the reserved domain of early sociologists such as Veblen or Innes (Mitchell 2005) but were naturally addressed by institutional economists, geographers such as George O. Smith (ranked 15th, 20th, and 24th in Table 2), demographers such as Warren S. Thompson (18th), or authors listed in bibliographies of female economic thinkers such

15 For older articles we also referred to the main text, as their titles were shorter and therefore often not informative. Confirming existing observations on title length (Becker 2003; Moody 2006), we found that the average word length of titles almost doubled from about 6–7 words in the first half of the twentieth century to about 11–12 words in the 2000s. This finding should make one skeptical about the quality of bibliometric analyses based on key-word searches in titles only.

as Dorothy Wescott (Maden/Seiz/Pujol 2004). Also many agrarian and developmental topics are present, for example, in the works of Denis O'Hearn (13th, 48–49th). While economists turned their attention ever more frequently to theoretical articles, they left the field of economic topics open to sociologists and scholars of other disciplines (Morgan/Rutherford 1998; Backhouse 1998). However, to our surprise, we do not find any new economic sociologists among the top articles on this topic. Moreover, most of these articles were published in the first half of the twentieth century, indicating that they resonated with the work of classic authors.

To call topic 7 an economic topic implies that others are sufficiently non-economic. Therefore, we briefly inspect the other topics to verify that they are indeed distinct from purely economic topics and that they adequately represent a homogenous sociology topic in and of themselves. The organization topic captures the work of the leading scholars in both organization studies and, more particularly, in the New Economic Sociology. Neil Fligstein has five articles in AJS and ASR on this topic that rank highly: 2nd, "Bank Control, Owner Control, or Organizational Dynamics" (1992), co-authored with Peter Brantley; 7th, "Networks of Power or the Finance Conception of Control?" (1995); 21st, "The Spread of the Multidivisional Form among Large Firms, 1919–1979" (1985); 30th, "The Intraorganizational Power Struggle" (1987); 37th, "Markets as Politics" (1996). These five articles have an organization-topic probability of over 63 percent. Paul DiMaggio co-authored one article on this list with Walter Powell, "The Iron Cage Revisited" (1983), that ranks 38th with a 63-percent topic probability. Brian Uzzi has three articles ranking among the top 60: 11th, "Embeddedness in the Making of Financial Capital" (1999); 17th, "The Sources and Consequences of Embeddedness for the Economic Performance of Organizations" (1996); 59th, "Embeddedness and Price Formation in the Corporate Law Market" (2004). These three articles have an organization-topic probability of over 58 percent.

With regard to the other topics, that of "ethnicity/race" includes such important authors as Douglas S. Massey (seven times), known for his work on racial segregation (Massey/Denton 1993), and Stanley Lieberson (27th rank), known for his work on ethnic relations. The "politics/state" topic includes classical authors in comparative politics such as Theda Skocpol and Seymour M. Lipset. The "work/labor" topic, in turn, captures traditional issues in occupational sociology, such as stratification, wages, inequality, and industrial relations. Rachel Rosenfeld's important work on occupational inequalities is represented (Moller 2007). The topic "education" clearly captures issues with regards to schools, stratification, educational achievement, and occupation, and includes articles such as the notable one by James Coleman from 1960, "The Adolescent Subculture and Academic Achievement" and John W. Meyer's work on education. Articles listed under the topic "law/crime" have titles from the prominent criminologist Lawrence W. Sherman. His article "Reply: Implications of a Failure to Read the Literature" in the ASR ranks the highest on this topic; his article from 1993 with the title "Attacking Crime" in the journal *Crime and Justice* ranks 36th in all of JSTOR. The renowned author Walter R. Gove has six articles on this list.

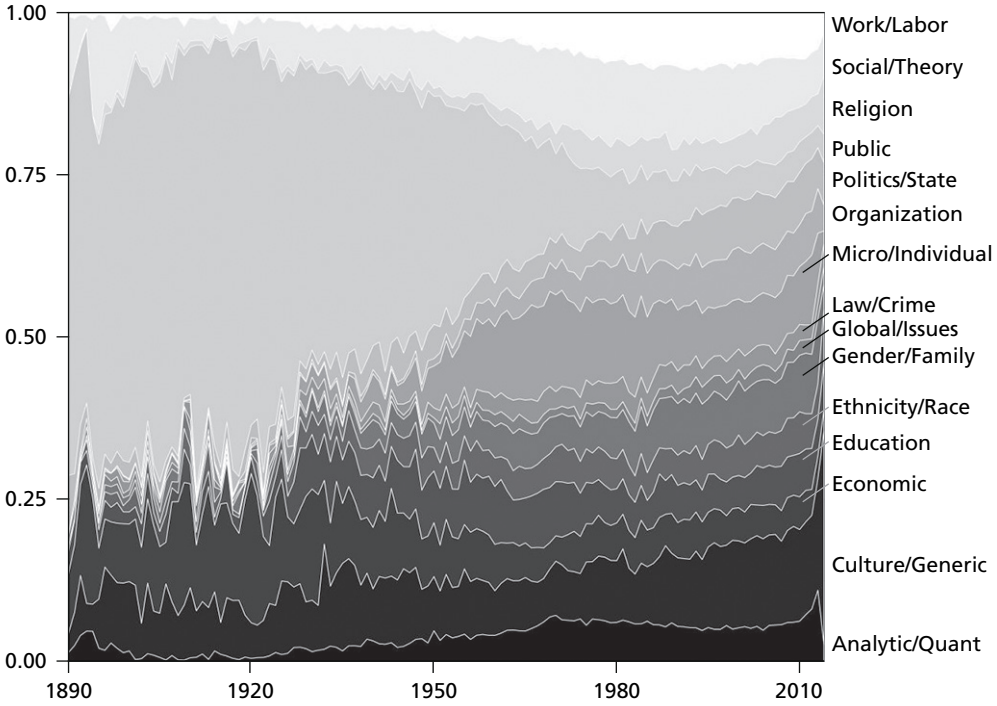
Table 1 The 15 topics and their top 50 terms

	Public	Education	Law/Crime	Global/Issues	Gender/Family	Work/Labor	Economic	Organization	Social/Theory	Culture/Generic	Micro/Individual	Religion	Ethnicity/Race	Politics/State	Analytic/Quant
1	state	school	crime	africa	famili	work	econom	manag	social	one	social	religi	black	polit	model
2	will	educ	law	african	women	labor	develop	organ	sociolog	peopl	behavior	religion	american	state	use
3	one	student	crimin	des	children	employ	product	organiz	new	new	group	church	white	nation	can
4	may	research	social	les	sexual	effect	land	firm	theori	work	research	israel	social	social	one
5	public	sociolog	polic	french	parent	job	market	journal	press	can	studi	palestinian	new	new	data
6	law	colleg	court	coloni	child	occup	industri	new	univers	time	journal	isra	race	parti	two
7	american	social	use	languag	health	worker	increas	research	york	like	differ	arab	racial	public	will
8	govern	education	case	south	marriag	econom	per	work	one	way	person	cathol	ethnic	movement	set
9	work	teacher	legal	canadian	sex	incom	world	review	societi	cultur	measur	christian	urban	polici	differ
10	can	children	new	paris	men	differ	countri	process	cultur	also	psycholog	jewish	communiti	press	number
11	tion	univers	drug	canada	journal	age	price	busi	can	use	effect	also	group	univers	case
12	unit	studi	justic	latin	gender	data	trade	structur	human	life	use	islam	citi	power	variabl
13	new	teach	violenc	que	mother	tabl	capit	control	work	make	variabl	god	immigr	intern	result
14	time	program	prison	franc	age	women	growth	perform	scienc	even	respond	state	york	govern	may
15	must	class	medic	dan	care	rate	new	network	american	see	tabl	protest	popul	world	valu
16	nation	academ	journal	english	social	wage	economi	may	concept	mani	relat	new	press	democrat	choic
17	made	high	research	vol	marit	year	agricultur	use	structur	will	may	studi	unit	right	estim
18	year	learn	patient	mexico	relationship	variabl	china	chang	studi	women	one	nation	area	war	measur
19	general	work	report	european	male	chang	also	market	individu	man	signific	polit	univers	vote	social
20	mani	use	health	france	research	level	state	corpor	system	person	indic	east	african	countri	function
21	upon	group	studi	van	studi	percent	rural	relat	relat	know	attitud	middl	negro	support	analysi
22	case	develop	behavior	une	father	model	import	studi	society	men	data	west	studi	german	first
23	problem	youth	york	par	new	relat	govern	academi	research	press	factor	muslim	sociolog	also	given
24	make	cours	victim	spanish	family	time	use	inform	class	world	scale	will	neighborhood	european	effect
25	union	one	control	histori	femal	increas	rate	industri	may	just	item	movement	among	econom	individu
26	per	train	review	del	life	class	one	effect	natur	social	relationship	jew	state	american	relat
27	interest	profession	mental	sur	role	social	bank	resourc	process	mean	individu	india	south	elect	prefer
28	labor	year	delinqu	social	time	educ	farm	administr	develop	univers	high	one	america	soviet	tabl
29	social	graduat	problem	brazil	marri	review	year	can	problem	think	sampl	secular	percent	civil	theori
30	war	institut	american	nigeria	may	market	nation	power	sociology	may	level	support	census	develop	also
31	act	higher	treatment	nation	work	estim	will	organizations	form	first	two	militari	minor	institut	method
32	number	schools	rate	london	live	use	area	model	econom	say	score	includ	hous	societi	statist
33	power	american	effect	pour	support	status	system	develop	differ	take	respons	palestin	migrat	system	point
34	right	also	may	region	husband	men	chines	employe	life	place	status	intern	chicago	issu	distribut
35	con	new	press	intern	home	result	larg	press	polit	york	model	journal	cultur	see	test
36	part	parent	state	qui	use	measur	cent	also	power	get	result	forc	resid	chang	probabl
37	first	public	public	cultur	among	earn	popul	product	world	two	life	peopl	states	liber	group
38	feder	students	alcohol	indigen	relat	union	food	behavior	action	call	survey	report	nation	politics	observ
39	two	can	offend	univers	behavior	industri	foreign	decis	modern	come	test	member	local	union	time
40	plan	communiti	sentenc	est	report	sociolog	social	tion	view	much	american	right	differ	global	order
41	organ	journal	also	linguist	adolesc	higher	can	theori	mean	well	correl	world	review	reform	follow
42	even	number	juvenil	studi	also	number	invest	role	review	ident	posit	among	class	democraci	general
43	fact	grade	abus	ghana	young	per	intern	strategi	also	want	mean	group	journal	der	thus
44	system	particip	percent	nub	coupl	also	chang	york	see	part	question	two	live	ideolog	possibl
45	great	activ	punish	british	divorc	journal	tax	environment	way	feel	subject	peac	region	york	condit
46	report	depart	system	tradit	partner	high	cost	technolog	london	form	report	gaza	number	class	sinc
47	need	achiev	sociolog	dutch	adult	mobil	produc	institut	will	becom	support	faith	southern	organ	consid
48	ing	differ	violence	los	birth	less	time	level	valu	often	find	see	rural	unit	structur
49	ment	report	data	nativ	york	signific	region	relationship	point	thing	among	area	famili	und	show
50	servic	mani	justice	modern	differ	sampl	unit	social	theory	experi	present	land	washington	group	indic

Table 2 Top 60 ECON articles in the AJS and ASR

	Title	Journal	Year	Authors	Public	Education	Law/Crime	Global/Issues	Gender/Family	Work/Labor	Economic	Organization	Social/Theory	Culture/Generic	Micro/Individual	Religion	Ethnicity/Race	Politics/State	Analytic/Quant
1	Production	AJS	1930	Dorothy Wescott	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Foreign Trade and Investments	AJS	1928	G. B. Roorbach	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00
3	Production	AJS	1931	Dorothy Wescott	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
4	Production	AJS	1932	Dorothy Wescott	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Production	AJS	1929	Harry Jerome	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
6	Production	AJS	1928	Harry Jerome	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
7	Dependency Theory and Taiwan: Analysis of a Deviant Case	AJS	1982	Richard E. Barrett, Martin K. Whyte	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.73	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.02
8	Mines and Plantations and the Movements of Peoples	AJS	1932	Edgar T. Thompson	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
9	Urbanization and Inflation: Lessons from the English Price…	AJS	1984	Jack A. Goldstone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.72	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05
10	The Concept of Dominance and World-Organization	AJS	1927	R. D. McKenzie	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.72	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.00
11	Population	AJS	1929	Warren S. Thompson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.12	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.03	0.05
12	The Ecology of Indonesian Cities	AJS	1961	Nathan Keyfitz	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
13	Innovation and the World-System Hierarchy: British Subjuga…	AJS	1994	Denis O'Hearn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.71	0.18	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.01
14	Modes of Extraction, Unequal Exchange, and the Progressive…	AJS	1984	Stephen G. Bunker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.09	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.00
15	Natural Resources	AJS	1930	George Otis Smith	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	The Social Origins of Agrarian Change in Late Medieval Eng…	AJS	1994	Rosemary L. Hopcroft	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.01	0.16	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.00
17	The Great City in Southeast Asia	AJS	1955	Norton S. Ginsburg	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.02	0.00
18	The Conditions of Rural Life	AJS	1935	T. B. Manny	0.28	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
19	The Need for a Population Policy in Japan	ASR	1950	Warren S. Thompson	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Natural Resources	AJS	1932	George Otis Smith	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Rural Life	AJS	1928	John M. Gillette	0.23	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00
22	The Origin and Growth of Urbanization in the World	AJS	1955	Kingsley Davis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.18	0.00	0.00
23	Agrarian Reforms in the Far East	AJS	1952	J. H. Boeke	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Natural Resources	AJS	1931	George Otis Smith	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Rural Life	AJS	1942	Carl C. Taylor	0.19	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.00	0.00
26	Natural Resources	AJS	1929	George Otis Smith	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Economic Structure of Rural Bengal: A Survey of Six Villag…	ASR	1948	Ramkrishna Mukherjee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.15	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.14
28	Population Pressure and the Future of Western Civilization…	AJS	1950	E. W. Hofstee	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00
29	The Causes of Rural-Urban Migration a Survey of German The…	AJS	1938	Rudolph Heberle	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.07	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.13	0.04
30	Natural Resources	AJS	1928	George Otis Smith	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
31	The Political Economy of Food: The Rise and Fall of the Po…	AJS	1982	Harriet Friedmann	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.02	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.24	0.00
32	Urbanism in India	AJS	1955	Robert I. Crane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.08	0.21	0.00	0.00
33	Urbanism and Population Distribution in China	AJS	1951	Fenton Keyes	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.01	0.00
34	The Social Implications of Soil Erosion: A Case-Study	ASR	1945	J. L. Hypes	0.12	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
35	The Secondary Circuit of Capital Reconsidered: Globalizati…	AJS	2006	Kevin Fox Gotham	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.23	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.09	0.00
36	How Do People Transform Landscapes? A Sociological Perspec…	AJS	2009	Thomas K. Rudel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.02	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.13	0.14	0.00
37	The Relationship Between Population Growth and Economic De…	ASR	1962	Edward G. Stockwell	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
38	Population Areas and Physiographic Regions in Canada	AJS	1927	C. A. Dawson	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.18	0.00	0.00
39	Economic Limits of International Resettlement	ASR	1945	Wilbert E. Moore	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.11	0.00	0.00
40	Changing Food Habits of the Japanese in Hawaii	ASR	1945	Jitsuichi Masuoka	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.58	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00
41	Population, Private Ownership, Technology, and the Standar…	AJS	1951	William Fielding Ogburn	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.58	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00
42	Public Range Lands – A New Policy Needed	AJS	1916	Romanzo Adams	0.38	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
43	Recent Migration in the Soviet Union	ASR	1944	Eugene M. Kulischer	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.16	0.00
44	Why do Peasants Rebel? Structural and Historical Theories …	AJS	1982	J. Craig Jenkins	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.58	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.27	0.00
45	Economic Differences Among Rural Centers	ASR	1947	Vincent Heath Whitney	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.06
46	The Effects of International Economic Dependence on Develo…	ASR	1978	D. Lake, M. Stumpp, R. M. Marsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.30	0.57	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
47	An Appraisal of China's Historical Population Data	AJS	1947	Ta Chen	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.11
48	The Irish Case of Dependency: An Exception to the Exceptio…	ASR	1989	Denis O'Hearn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.57	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
49	Reply: Tales and Realities	ASR	1990	Denis O'Hearn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.57	0.05	0.08	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.03
50	Population Trends in Japan	ASR	1944	Jesse F. Steiner	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.12	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
51	Agrarian Conflict and the Origins of Korean Capitalism	AJS	1998	Gi-Wook Shin	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.27	0.00
52	The Why of Income	AJS	1915	Scott Nearing	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.55	0.00	0.12	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
53	Agricultural Enterprise and Rural Class Relations	AJS	1961	Arthur L. Stinchcombe	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.55	0.04	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.14	0.00
54	Economic Reasons for the Coming of the Mexican Immigrant	AJS	1930	Max Sylvius Handman	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00
55	Occupations	AJS	1947	Ta Chen	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.17	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
56	Housing in Vienna: A Socialistic Experiment	AJS	1932	Robert E. Chaddock	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
57	Forces of Urban Centralization and Decentralization	AJS	1941	Homer Hoyt	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.09	0.14	0.03	0.00
58	Warlordism: A Transitory Stage in Chinese Government	AJS	1938	Kurt Bloch	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00
59	Some Sociological Problems in the Work of FAO	ASR	1948	Conrad Taeuber	0.31	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
60	Farm Tenancy and Social Factors: A Study in Oklahoma	AJS	1932	Thomas C. McCormick, Ellen Barney	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.05

Figure 2 The relative shares of all 15 topics in sociology, 1890–2014



Notes: (a) Authors' calculations. (b) Annual average percentages of topic probabilities, calculated from all the articles. (c) The stacked graphs are ordered according to the order of the legend.

We take this evidence to be sufficient to support the first proposition about an identifiable economic topic in our corpus. This topic has been present since the birth of sociology and survived as an identifiable and singular topic through the last century. This finding is equally supported by earlier content analyses of main journals (Becker 1930, 1932; Kinloch 1988). This topic captures parts of the research in the sociology of work, industry, and organization which, in previous studies, constituted together between 10 and 15 percent of all ASA members between 1930 and 1960 (Simpson 1961) and more than 8 percent of research topics (McCartney 1970). Accordingly, we suggest that this topic corresponds to the field of classical political economy rather than the issues dealt with by contemporary economic sociologists.

Figure 2, displaying the stacked plot of all 15 topics, confirms that the ECON topic has developed into a sizeable topic over time. Much of the growth of both the ECON topic and all other specialized topics occurred at the cost of the initially dominant, then rapidly declining "public" topic. We interpret this finding as the ongoing process of professionalization and specialization. We identified the "public/sociology" topic as most heterogeneous, containing many of the topic areas of the early AJS that Andrew Abbott described as "a mishmash of would-be professional sociology, impassioned progressivist rhetoric, learned European argument, reports on local social problems, legislative programs, and who knows what else" (1999: 96). The number of non-sociological

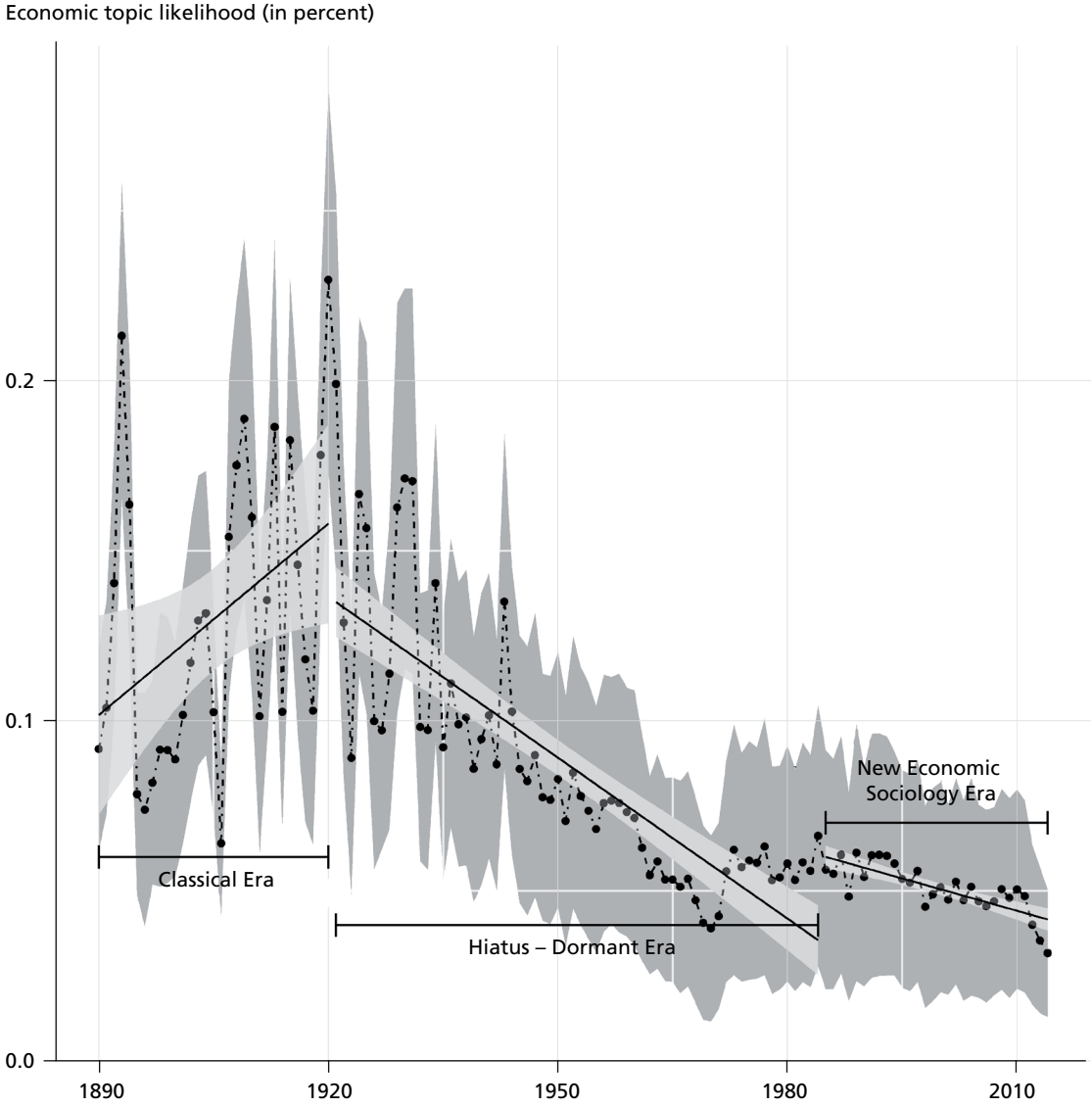
topics and non-sociologist authors was continually narrowed down, and identifiable subdisciplines began to emerge (Shanas 1945; Abbott 1999: 85; Duncan/Duncan 1933). As the AJS is the main journal for the early period in sociology, the dominance and decline of the heterogeneous topic comes as no surprise and confirms existing manual AJS content analyses for the early period (Becker 1930, 1932). This trend is further fueled by the entry of more and specialized journals in the 1930s (Bannister 2008), especially the ASR, which was founded as an explicit counterpublication to AJS (Lengermann 1979), as was later the journal *Social Problems* (Henslin/Roesti 1976). In all these journals, the ECON topic is well represented.

Proposition 2 and 3: Prevalence and U-shape

Turning to the next propositions about economic sociology being the most vibrant field in sociology and its U-shaped development, we analyze the ECON's development in comparison with other disciplines and over time. To this purpose, Figure 3 displays the average annual probabilities with which we find the ECON topic. Figure 4 compares it to other major topics in our corpus. For the ECON topic, we also added standard deviation bars and linear estimates for the three major eras of economic topics, as identified by Swedberg (1997).

Invalidating the second proposition, we do not find that the ECON topic is relatively more dominant than other important topics such as organization, social theory, or culture. The organization topic, for instance, was virtually nonexistent at the beginning of the twentieth century and started to become increasingly frequent just before the 1950s. This fits well with Clegg and Bailey's historical description of the field, where organization studies emerged formally in the 1970s with the European Group for Organization Studies (2008). Even if organization studies is still described as being a vibrant and growing field, our model suggests that this topic reached a peak around the beginning of the twenty-first century. The work-labor topic, in turn, follows a similar trend, although it remained a couple of percentage points above the organization topic throughout the period of 1890 to 2000. The social theory topic has an interesting semi-U-shaped trajectory: during the classical era the likelihood that a random sociology article would be about theory was almost 20 percent; during the beginning of the hiatus era, this figure plummeted; then it rose throughout the entire postwar period. We note that the frequency of all four topics has been declining since the beginning of the twenty-first century, making room for the culture topic – more formally known as the *cultural turn* in sociology (Best 2007). This topic has been enjoying increasing interest since the 1980s and was experiencing an eruption of interest by 2010. This conforms to observations by Jacobs and Spillman (2005), who describe it as "one of the most influential trends in the humanities and social sciences in the last generation." Nonetheless, since our topic measure is a relative measure, an increase in one topic comes at the expense of the others. This is confirmed by the negative correlation between the topics (Table A-4, Appendix). By the 1960s, the ECON topic had also lost most of its importance in favor of the culture topic.

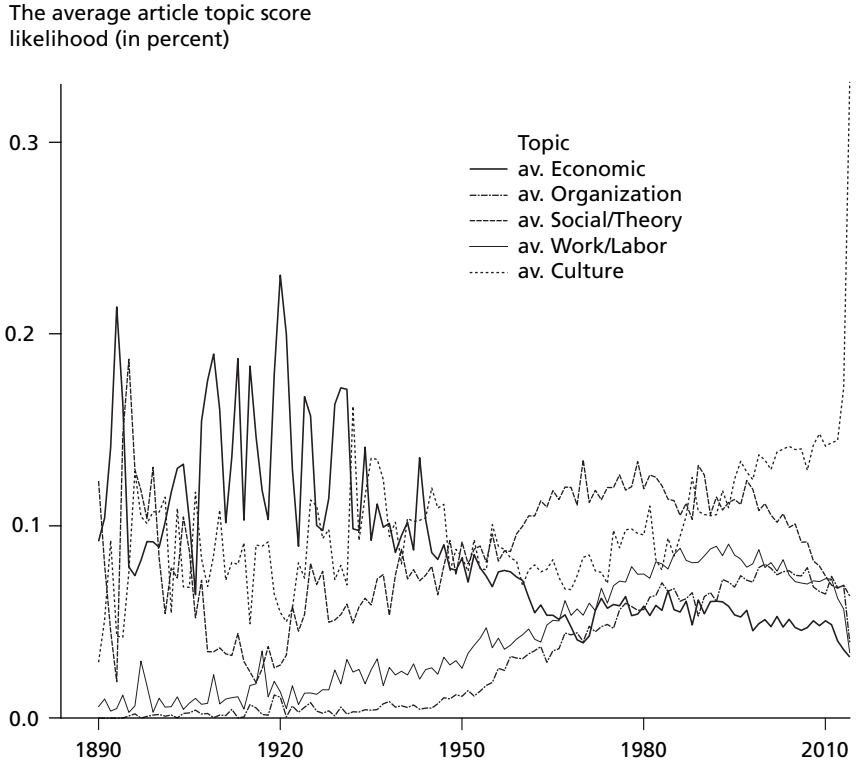
Figure 3 Relative share of ECON and other specialized topics



Notes: (a) Authors' calculations from the posterior of the topic-document distribution, often denominated θ. (b) The figure captures the average economic topic proportion for each year calculated from all the articles in the JSTOR data. (c) Simple linear models are fitted for each era (economic topic regressed on time, n = 142,040) with 95%-confidence interval. (d) The raw one-quarter of standard deviation is overlayed. (e) The definitions of the three eras are taken from Richard Swedberg (1997).

The finding also invalidates the third proposition about ECON's historical development. The ECON topic increased in frequency during the classical era, in line with the customary view. But the model shows also that this topic has been declining ever since the peak it had during the classical era. We will conduct more formal statistical tests of this observation below. The strong fluctuations, especially during the earlier stages, are

Figure 4 ECON in comparison with other topics



not only linked with fewer articles per year; they have also been found in manually coded content analyses (Becker 1930, 1932). Moreover, journals diversify their topics over time, and they are subject to academic trends and fashion cycles (Bort/Kieser 2011).[16]

Proposition 4: Gender

To test the gender proposition, we use authors' first names to infer their gender, a technique commonly used in onomastics and sociology (Culmont 2014). There is a small error margin due to androgynous names whose frequency is, however, negligible in our sample (Lieberson/Dumais/Baumann 2000). Moreover, not all cases can be used because some author information is missing, some authors use abbreviations only, and some names are not covered by the most complete US first name database provided by the US Social Security.[17] For the 112,097 valid cases of first authors, we found positive correlations of male authors with the economic topic (r = 0.07) and the organization (0.01) and social-theory topic (0.09) and negative correlation with cultural (–0.12) and

16 The generally strong year-to-year fluctuations should make one cautious with regard to the many research designs that use only a single year to represent a decade or the general state of the discipline.

17 https://www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/background.html, accessed on the January 3, 2016.

gender/family sociology (–0.23). This confirms the observation in the literature that economic topics have been written about more often by male authors. The result also suggests that the major increase of female authorship from less than 5 % to more than 35 % over the last century in our sample could be one of the reasons for the decline of economic topics and the rise of family, gender, and cultural sociology.

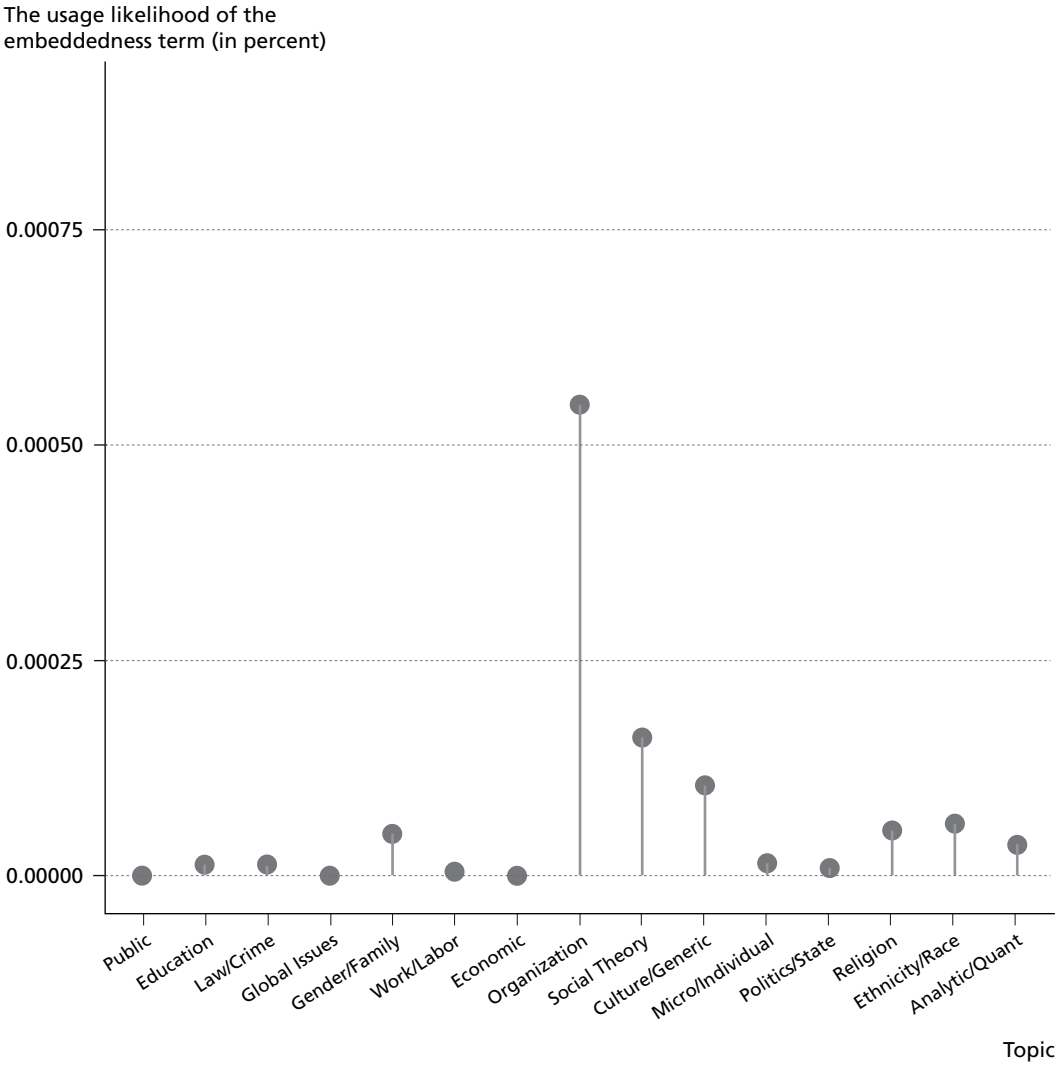
Proposition 5: Heterogeneity

To test the heterogeneity proposition about various topics within New Economic Sociology more specifically, we analyze the topic distributions of its key theoretical concept "embeddedness" and its central contributors. In spite of its curvilinear development (Krippner/Alvarez 2007; Beckert 2007; Gemici 2008), embeddedness is still the hallmark concept of the New Economic Sociology and can therefore serve as a proxy for this literature. Figure 5 depicts the distribution of the term embeddedness over the 15 topics. The x-axis represents the 15 topics and the y-axis the probability that the term embeddedness belongs to the given topic. We cannot confirm the above finding that research in economic sociology overlaps strongly with the ECON topic. The embeddedness term, in turn, scores highest on the organization, the social theory, and the cultural topics. This finding is the first hint about economic sociology's internal diversity, and the high scores for these topics might be associated with the strong ties the subdiscipline has with organizational theory, business schools, and theoretical writings about classics.

We also analyzed some of the central contributors to economic sociology to determine their *genetic topical features*. The heat maps in Figure 6 depict the topic distribution for five leading scholars, their articles, and topic distribution. This panel gives a detailed picture of all of the articles these scholars have in our JSTOR sample and their respective topic distribution.

It comes as no surprise that the topic model suggests that Richard Swedberg's work tends to be more theoretically oriented. Of his 19 articles in our JSTOR data, "Can There Be a Sociological Concept of Interest" is the most theoretical; with a topic proportion of 88 percent, it is the most topic-concentrated paper. As can be seen by the heat map, "Civil courage (Zivilcourage): The case of Knut Wicksell" is his most topic-diffuse paper. For Swedberg's 19 JSTOR articles, the average topic proportion is 60 percent in social theory, 10 percent in politics/state, 8 percent in economic. He has only 5 percent in organization. Interestingly, Patrik Aspers, one of the leading economic sociologists in Sweden (Azarian/Daoud/Larsson 2014), who was a Ph. D. student of Swedberg, scores exactly 60 percent in the social theory topic. He scores higher in the economic and organization topics than Swedberg does: 17 percent and 11 percent, respectively. This makes him fit somewhat better than Swedberg in the overall tendency exhibited in the New Economic Sociology, thus marking a general generational shift of the economic sociologists. Judging from our heat maps, the most diverse leading economic sociologists – when defined as those having the most articles and the most varied topic distribution – are Neil Fligstein, Paul DiMaggio, and Frank Dobbin.

Figure 5 The topic distribution of the term "embeddedness"

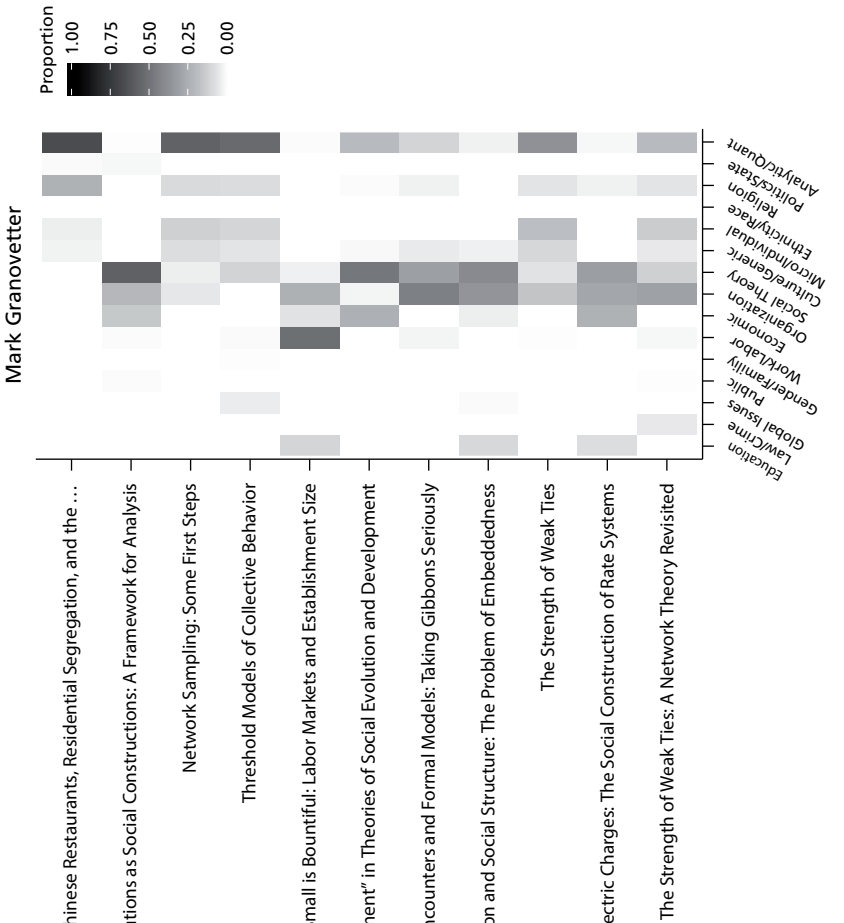


Note: (a) Authors' calculations from the posterior of the term-topic distribution, often denominated φ. (b) The bars show the importance of the term embeddedness for each topic.

Mark Granovetter's celebrated article "Economic Action and Social Structure" has a topic mix of 40 percent social theory, 36 percent organization, 11 percent public, 5 percent economic, and less than 0.01 percent work-labor. His own averaged mixture of the 11 JSTOR articles is similar but has less probability in the topics of social theory and organization and more in the analytics/quant topic (which derives in part from Harrison White's influence and Granovetter's own application of social network theory).

The mix between the topics of organization and social theory seems to be the defining genetic feature of the current state of the New Economic Sociology. We tested this further. Relying on a list of economic sociology by Convert and Heilbron (2007) and on authors from a recommended reading list (Beckert et al. 2015), we calculated the

Figure 6 A heat-map panel of economic sociologists and their topic distribution



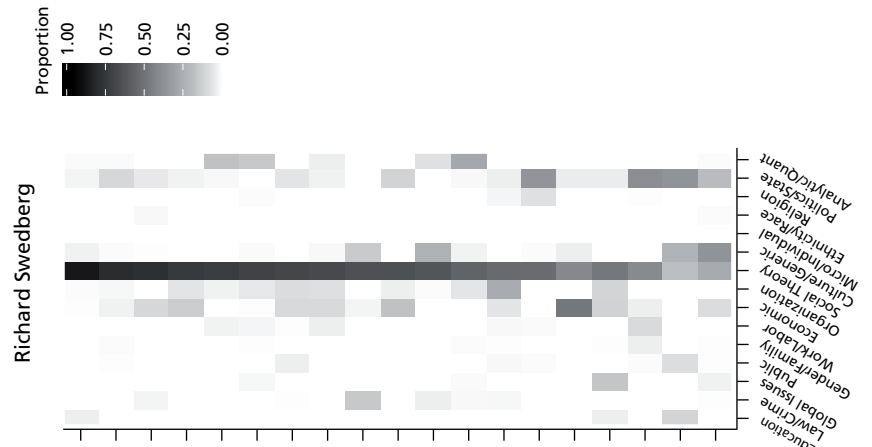


Figure 6, continued

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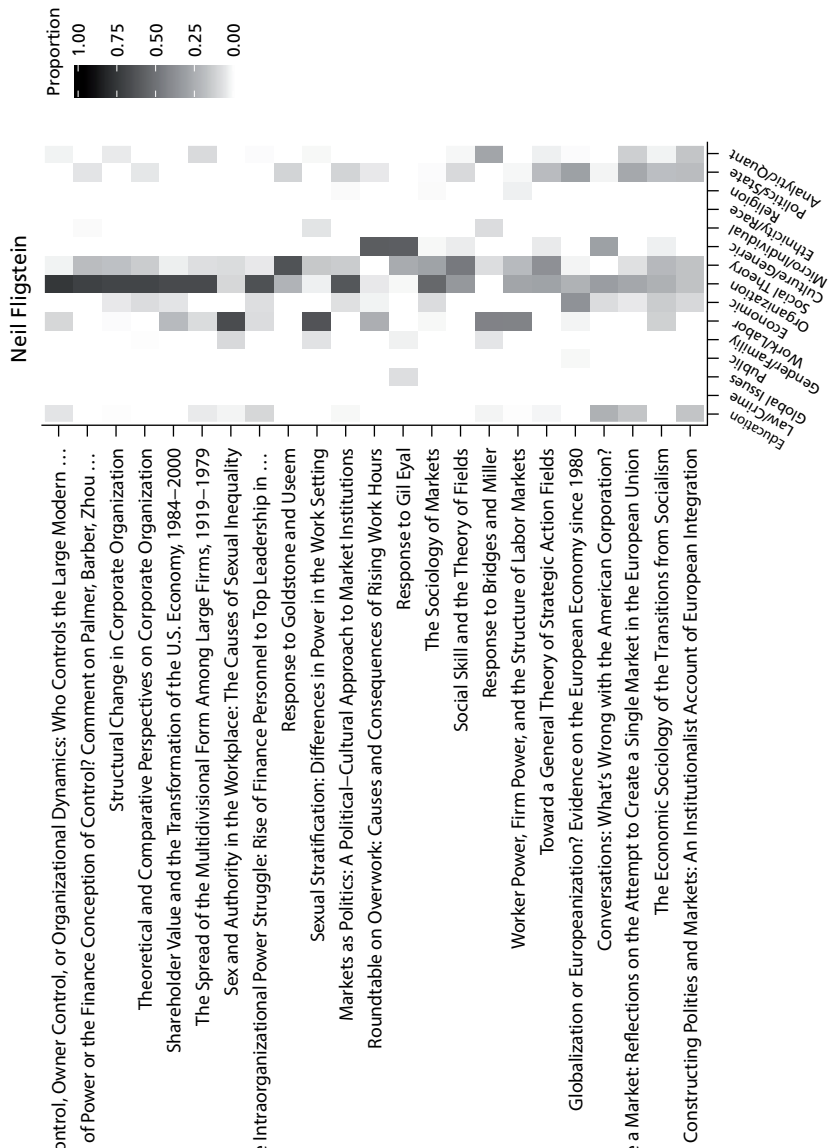

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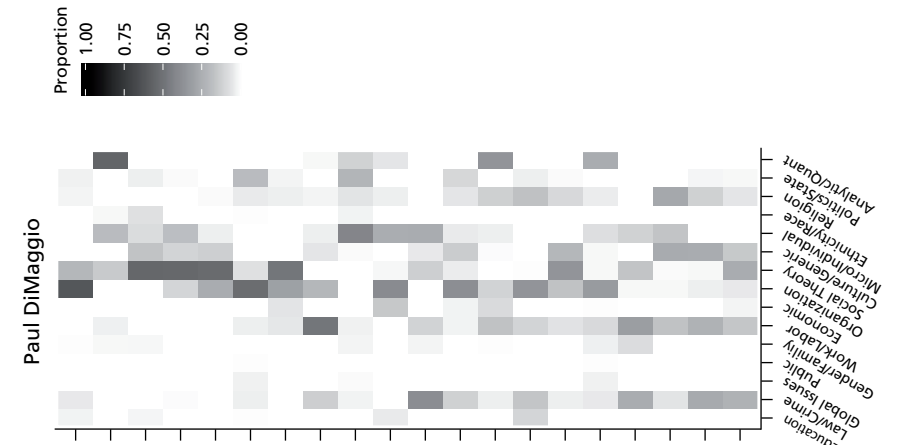


Figure 6, continued

average topic distribution of economic sociology more generally, see Table 3: 22 percent (±5.3 %) in social theory, 21.5 percent (±4.6 %) in organization, 9.8 percent (±2.2 %) in economic, 7.2 percent (±2.5 %) in work-labor, 6.2 percent (±1.7 %) in culture. The 95-percent confidence interval is in the parentheses. Simultaneously, an average sociologist publishing during the new economic sociology era (1985–2014) has an equivalent score of 5.1 percent (±0.1 %) on the economic topic; during the hiatus era (1920–1984), the same average sociologists would have a score of 7 percent (±0.1 %) and an even higher score during the classical era, 13.8 percent (±0.5 %). We calculated these confidence intervals with the help of a statistical bootstrapping method and based on the topic modeling results. This enables us to determine how certain we are about these numbers and to make group comparisons.

In summary, what produces a new economic sociologist is – somewhat surprisingly – not so much the focus on the economic topic, because economic sociologists have only 2.1 percent more than the average sociologist, measured during the era of the New Economic Sociology (1985–2014). Neither is it the work-labor topic: economic sociologists have 1.6 percent less than the average sociologist. What sets the economic sociologists apart from the rest of the sociologists is rather the emphasis of a topical mixture of organization and social theory. There are several deviations from these observations that are worth noting. For example, Viviana Zelizer's work has an average of 11.2 percent in the gender/family topic, which is higher than the average new economic sociologist that is at 1.2 percent. The fact that the new economic sociologists (and the classics) have ignored gender and family issues is well documented (England/Folbre 2005). Our model confirms this empirically. Zelizer's work has the lowest proportion in the organization topic (4 %) along with Swedberg (5 %). Granovetter's work tends to be more in the analytics/quant topic (25.2 % compared with the average of 5.6 %).

Multilevel model testing of Proposition 3

While the results so far have been inductively and descriptively driven by the topic model, we used multilevel models to deductively verify the time trends. This deductive approach also allows us to estimate the influence of specific journals and to control for article length. As our dependent variables, we used the ECON topic in the first model and the sum of the social theory and organization topics as a proxy for economic sociology or ECONSOC. The rationale behind including this second dependent variable is the following: even if economic topics (ECON), as found by our topic model, do not follow the hypothesized U-shape, this could still hold true for the topic-mix most closely represented by typical economic-sociology texts. We thereby grant that economic sociology might not be about topics captured by our topic model (captured by ECON) but by what economic sociologists are actually doing (captured by ECONSOC).[18] We first turn to the ECON-regressions (Table 4).

18 We follow a formulation by Fourcade here: "We should perhaps simply and modestly say that today economic sociology is what economic sociologists do" (2007: 1018).

Table 3 New economic sociologists and their topic distributions in percent

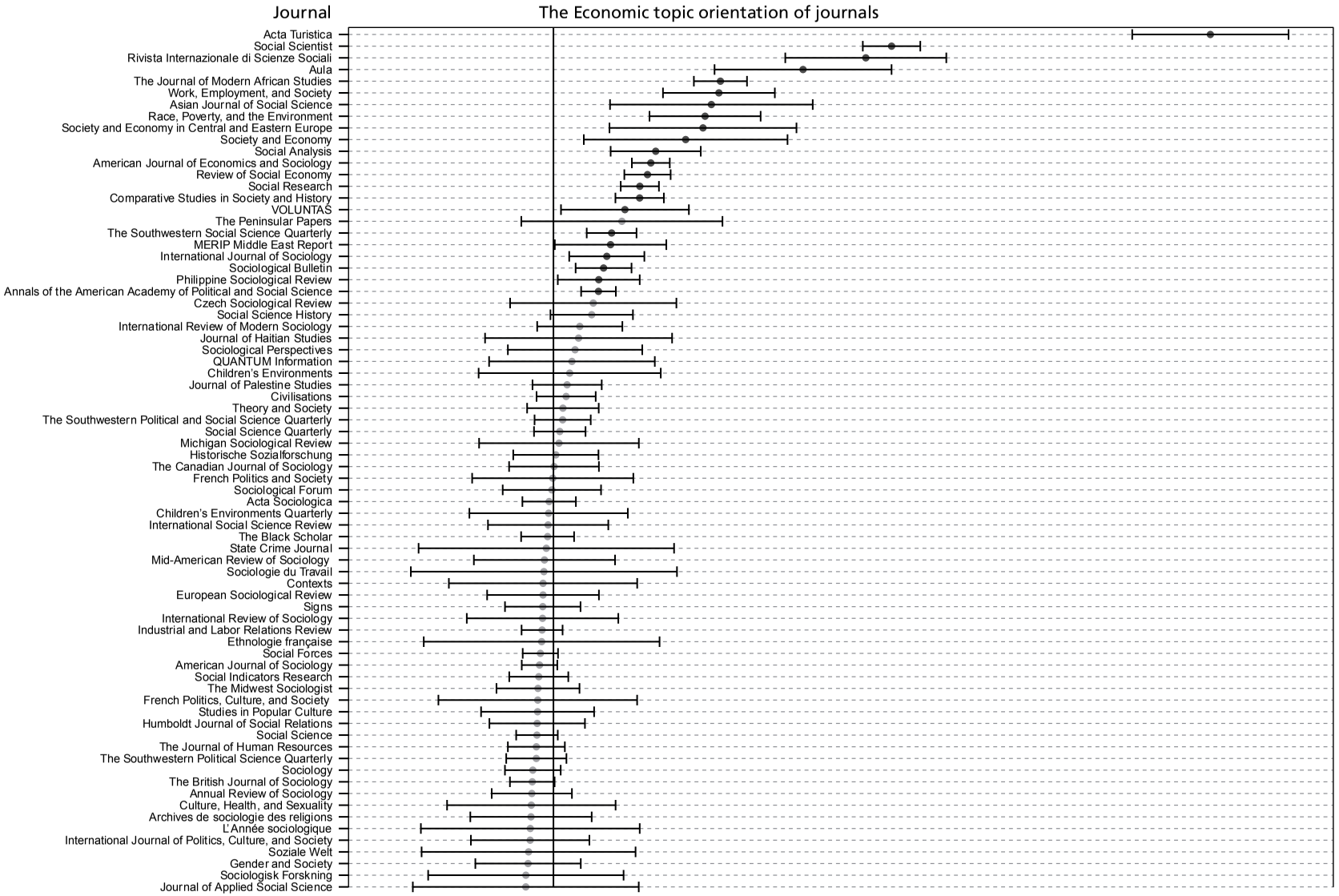
Authors	Articles	Public	Education	Law/Crime	Global/Issues	Gender/Family	Work/Labor	Economic	Organization	Social/Theory	Culture/Generic	Micro/Individual	Religion	Ethnicity/Race	Politics/State	Analytic/Quant
Alejandro Portes	54	3.9	6	0.9	3.2	1.4	12.1	6.7	3.9	11.6	1.6	11.7	0.1	24.9	6	5.9
Andrea Maurer	0															
Anthony S. Alvarez	1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	6.8	32.7	56	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.2	0.9
Brian Uzzi	11	1.2	3.4	1.8	0.0	0.3	13.6	3.0	55.2	6.1	4.1	2.5	0.0	2.3	0.0	6.5
Bruce Carruthers	13	10.7	0.5	2.4	0.4	0.1	4.0	23.6	16.8	15.1	4.7	0.6	0.3	3.0	15.9	1.9
Carlo Trigilia	1	0.0	0.0		22.8	0.0	9.7	19.8	16.6	7.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	18.1	2.0
Charles Sabel	0.0															
Charles Smith	29	21.1	5.9	4.8	0.2	1.9	4.3	6.0	6.2	11.8	11.7	8.8	4.8	7.1	3.7	1.6
Christoph Deutschmann	0															
David Stark	12	2.9	1.6	0.0	0.1	1.1	13.5	8.5	29.7	10.7	2.1	1.6	0.1	1.2	20.3	6.6
Dirk Baecker	0															
Frank Dobbin	22	12.6	1.0	2.6	0.3	2.1	14.4	3.9	35.3	9.0	4.2	4.8	0.1	2.7	6.4	0.7
Frank Romo	0															
Fred Block	16	11.4	0.2	0.8	0.1	1.6	6.2	17.2	5.7	24.7	6.5	0.0	2.1	2.7	20.1	0.6
Gary Hamilton	12	5.8	0.1	2.0	1.0	5.4	0.0	17.5	9.2	41.7	5.3	3.1	1.5	3.8	3.2	0.3
Gertraude Mikl-Horke	0															
Greta R. Krippner	4	6.7	0.0	0.1	1.7	0.1	6.6	19.9	21.4	31.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	9.0	0.8
Harrison C. White	20	2.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.8	4.4	4.7	15.2	18.5	11.5	4.2	0.3	1.9	1.0	33.7
Ivan Light	7	7.4	1.3	5.9	0.1	0.3	14.1	11.8	4.0	11.2	7.2	0.2	0.5	28.1	5.6	2.0
James Coleman	8	6.1	24.5	2.4	0.0	0.5	9.7	4.3	2.7	0.0	0.4	11.1	0.3	4.3	2.9	30.9
Jens Beckert	7	0.1	0.3	1.3	0.2	0.0	3.4	8.5	21.6	46.3	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.2	9.0	7.9
John F. Padgett	0															
Laurel Smith-Doerr	3	0.0	8.2	0.0	0.0	1.5	11.9	0.4	57	7.9	8.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9
Laurent Thvenot	2	0.0	2.2	0.0	29.6	0.0	6.3	1.3	5.0	37.9	3.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	10.4	3.0
Linda Brewster Stearns	12	7.7	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.1	9.3	5.8	46.9	1.4	0.5	1.6	0.0	12.7	4.8	6.4
Luc Boltanski	2	8.4	2.3	0.0	16.3	0.0	1.6	4.3	17.9	23.3	10.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	9.3	6.1
Maria Funder	0															
Marion Fourcade	9	2.1	3.1	0.5	4.9	0.0	1.1	15.3	7.6	29.1	11.1	1.0	0.6	0.4	22.2	1.0
Mark Granovetter	11	2.8	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	5.4	7.0	19.4	23.1	4.2	5.7	0.0	5.9	0.3	25.2
Mark Lazerson	2	2.9	0.0	0.0	13.8	0.4	10.2	32.1	34.4	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0
Marshall Meyer	15	12.4	4.0	4.1	0.0	0.0	5.8	0.6	35.8	10.2	1.7	4.0	0.0	1.7	3.9	15.7
Mauro F. Guilln	12	0.8	1.2	0.0	2.5	0.0	5.7	10.4	41.1	8.4	4.5	2.0	0.1	0.6	15.7	6.9
Michael Schwartz	22	10.3	3.2	5.6	0.0	2.6	3.4	5.2	21.5	7.0	6.6	11.3	5.4	6.6	6.4	4.8
Michel Callon	2	16.1	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.2	3.5	20.4	30.4	16.7	0.0	2.4	0.5	3	2.4
Milan Zafirovski	16	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	3.1	7.0	1.6	73.5	0.4	0.0	1.6	0.1	4.3	7.9
Mitchel Abolafia	1	10.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.9	48.3	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
Neil Fligstein	23	4.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	1.2	13.6	5.5	38.0	17.5	7.2	0.7	0.0	0.3	7.7	3.9
Neil Smelser	2	3.7	5.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	65.4	8.6	0.0	0.0	0.6	14.3	0.0
Nicole W. Biggart	12	11.8	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.5	11.3	33.5	28.0	6.6	0.0	0.1	0.9	6	0.1
Nigel Dodd	0															
Nina Bandelj	7	0.0	3.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	8.1	11.2	27.7	10.6	14.8	1.8	0.0	1.6	16.9	3.3
Patrick McGuire	3	7.1	8.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	2.7	15	13.7	32.7	0.0	4.6	0.0	9.3	5.2	0.8
Patrik Aspers	9	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.4	17.4	11.1	59.8	5.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.4	2.4
Paul DiMaggio	18	1.2	9.6	0.4	0.0	1.3	11	1.6	20.1	16.1	8.3	11.2	0.7	6.5	4.0	7.8
Paul Hirsch	17	5.3	2.8	6.1	0.0	0.1	5.1	3.7	27.8	23.6	15.2	1.6	0.0	2.3	3.5	2.8
Paula England	37	1.8	2.8	0.3	0.0	16.8	54.2	0.1	1.9	7.4	4.3	2.7	0.0	3.9	0.6	3.1
Reinhold Hedtke	0															
Richard Swedberg	19	1.1	1.5	1.3	0.8	0.4	1.2	8.1	4.6	60.0	6.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	10.2	4.1
Roger Friedland	17	2.9	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.7	8.8	5.7	28.1	11.4	3.4	0.9	6.7	12.2	13.5	4.9
Sarah Babb	6	9.4	0.4	0.5	2.3	0.0	3.5	21.6	9.5	11.7	4.0	0.4	0.4	2.4	33.7	0.4
Trevor Pinch	4	2.8	0.1	2.2	0.0	0.9	0.0	11.8	8.8	27.5	28.4	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.6
Walter W. Powell	10	0.8	8.8	0.2	0.0	0.3	4.5	5.3	50.7	10.0	9.0	0.9	0.2	2.9	1.5	5.0
Wayne Baker	7	3.4	1.7	3.0	0.2	0.4	4.8	5.6	40.1	7.0	3.5	10.9	0.8	4.1	4.6	9.9
Victor Nee	16	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.0	1.4	20.6	22.5	14.1	5.6	3.0	0.6	0.1	16.8	11.5	2.7
Viviana Zelizer	8	12.8	0.1	1.9	0.5	11.2	3.0	11.0	4.1	33.5	18.8	0.0	0.4	0.5	1.7	0.4
AVERAGE	9.8 (2.7)	5.2 (1.5)	2.6 (1.2)	1.3 (0.5)	2.4 (1.8)	1.2 (0.9)	7.2 (2.5)	9.8 (2.2)	21.5 (4.6)	22 (5.3)	6.2 (1.7)	2.6 (1)	0.7 (0.4)	4.1 (1.8)	7.7 (2.1)	5.6 (2.2)

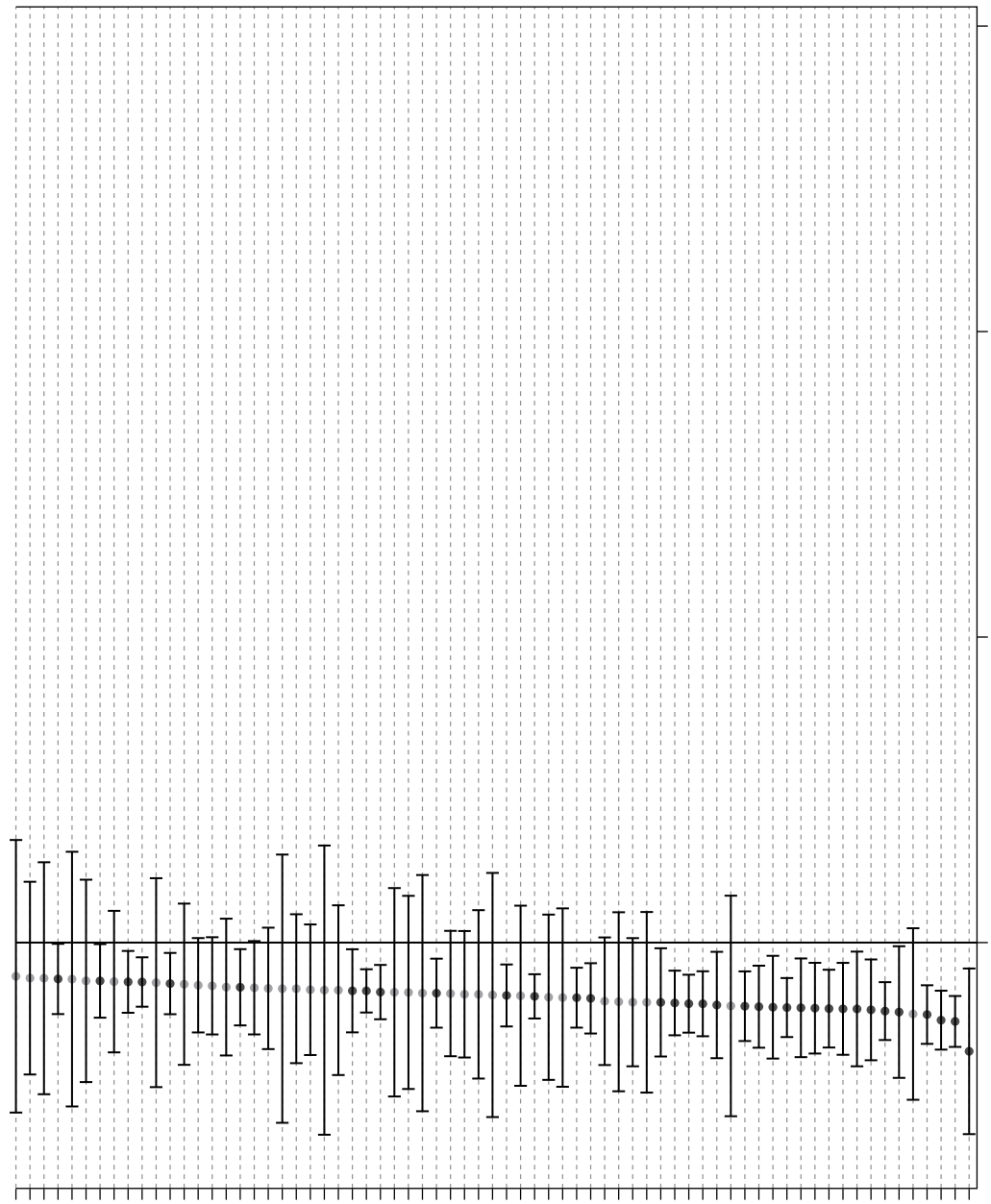
Table 4 Multilevel regressions on ECON

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7
Intercept	6.47***			11.62***	5.51***	3.18	–1.14
	(0.79)			(1.65)	(1.80)	(1.85)	(1.83)
Era1890to1920		13.46***	7.57***				
		(0.19)	(0.51)				
Era1921to1985		6.66***	12.92***				
		(0.87)	(0.15)				
Era1986to2014		5.71***	5.31***				
		(0.79)	(1.05)				
Pagelength		0.03***	0.06***	0.04***	0.05***	0.05***	0.05***
		(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Era1890to1920slp			0.29***				
			(0.02)				
Era1921to1985slp			–0.13***				
			(0.02)				
Era1986to2014slp			–0.07***				
			(0.02)				
Years				–0.06***	0.07***	0.36***	0.91***
				(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.05)
Years2					–0.00***	–0.01***	–0.02***
					(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Years3						0.00***	0.00***
						(0.00)	(0.00)
Years4							–0.00***
							(0.00)
RP2.var.Intercept	87.23			329.02	327,96	347,71	328,55
RP1.var.Intercept	144.21	142.85	142.85	140.92	140.84	141	140.44
DIC	1069404.25	1068280.62	1068371.12	1066457.75	1066381.75	1066160.50	1065989.12
LogLikelihood	–534702.12	–534140.31	–534185.56	–533228.88	–533190.88	–533080.25	–532994.56
Journal	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
Articles	136843	136843	136843	136843	136843	136843	136843
RP2.var.Era.1921to1985		102					
RP2.cov.Era.1921to1985.Era.1986to2014		90.56					
RP2.var.Era.1986to2014		84.92	149.08				
RP2.var.Era.1921to1985.slp			0.05				
RP2.cov.Era.1921to1985.slp.Era.1986to2014			2.82				
RP2.cov.Era.1921to1985.slp.Era.1986to2014.slp			–0.03				
RP2.cov.Era.1986to2014.Era.1986to2014.slp			–1.56				
RP2.var.Era.1986to2014.slp			0.03				
RP2.cov.Intercept.Years				–1.71	–1.72	–1.86	–1.72
RP2.var.Years				0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

***p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05. Economic topic is the dependent variable in all models. Estimated with R2MLwiN and MLwiN 2.32, IGLS.

Figure 7 Journal ranking of the intercept in ECON's model 7





Notes: (a) Authors' calculations. (b) The caterpillar plot is based on the multilevel modeling estimation. It depicts the intercept residual rank of the 143 journals included in estimating the Economic topic (model 7). (c) Journals above the zero-line are more economically oriented than journals below the zero-line. Journals at the zero-line have an average economic orientation.

Model 1 partitions the variance into the between-journal (RP2.var.Intercept) and within-journal (RP1.var.Intercept) scores. Potential journal variables are, for instance, the editors, the editorial board, or past-topic history. Journal variables are characteristics of the journal that apply to every article within the journal. Article-level variables are the publication date, authors' characteristics (e.g., gender, age, affiliation, funding), page length, citation, and other bibliometric characteristics. What we show here is the relative importance of each level.

For the ECON topic, we found 37.7 percent variance at the journal level. This shows that our results depend less on the selected journal corpus than on what happens at the article level. The Appendix (Figure A-2) presents details on the different contributions to the model results and thereby shows that the deviation of each journal across the average trend (the zero-line; Figure 7).

Model 2 shows that the discipline of sociology had, on average, a 13.46 percent ECON share during the classical era (Era1890to1920), 6.66 percent during the hiatus era (Era1921to1985), and somewhat less, 5.71 percent, during the era of New Economic Sociology (Era1986to2014). Model 3 shows that, by the beginning of the classical period, the average sociology article had 7.57 percent ECON share, which increased by 0.29 percent every year until 1920 (Era1890to1920slp). By then, the average article featured an ECON share of 12.92 percent, which then decreased by –0.13 percent until 1985 (Era1921to1985slp). After the publication of Granovetter's article in 1985, the decreasing trend still continued (Era1986to2014slp), albeit at a shallower rate (–0.07 %). This shows that the discipline of sociology has been gravitating toward a decrease in the ECON topic. These results account for page length of articles and journal clustering.[19]

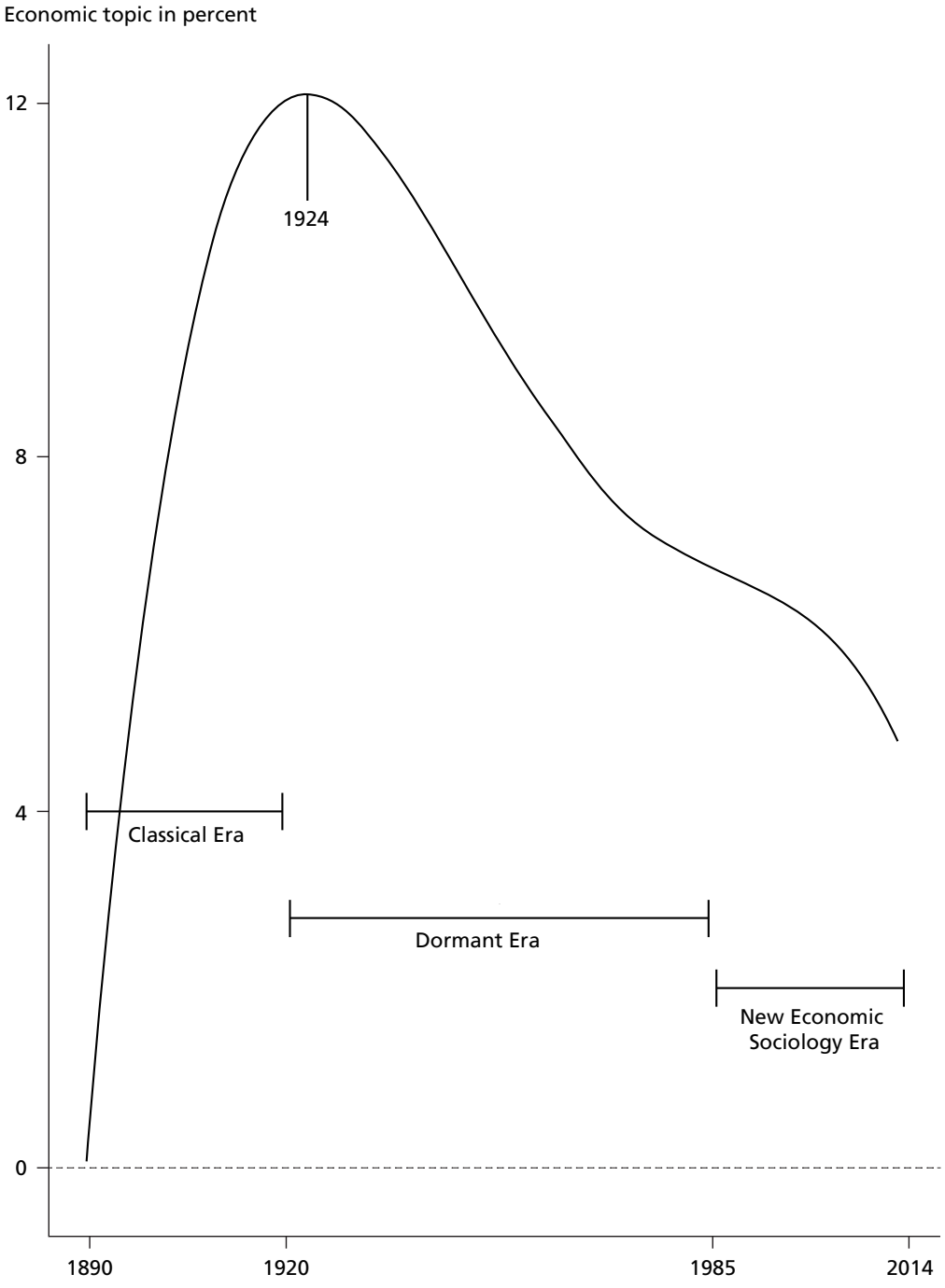
Thus, the U-shape curve cannot be considered the best theory of the history of economic topics in sociology. In models 4 through 7, we therefore try to estimate polynomial curves with a closer fit to the actual data. With a superior log-Likelihood, we found that a fourth degree polynomial presents the best fit for ECON.[20] Its result is depicted in Figure 8. This figure shows that the sociology discipline reached an ECON-peak already in 1923 and has found itself in a decreasing trend ever since. The model estimates a slowdown in this depreciation around the period between 1970 and 1990, with a further acceleration of the depreciation after this period. Although we find a decreasing trend, this slowdown might be due to the appearance of the New Economic Sociology.

We now turn to testing proposition 3 for the ECONSOC in a manner that parallels that of the ECON topic. The estimated seven models produce the results shown in Table 5.

19 The page length of articles falls from about 20 pages to 11–12 pages around 1940 and rises again to about 15 by the 2000s.

20 A fifth degree polynomial results in a worse fit with a log-Likelihood of –584718.1.

Figure 8 Estimated trend of the ECON topic



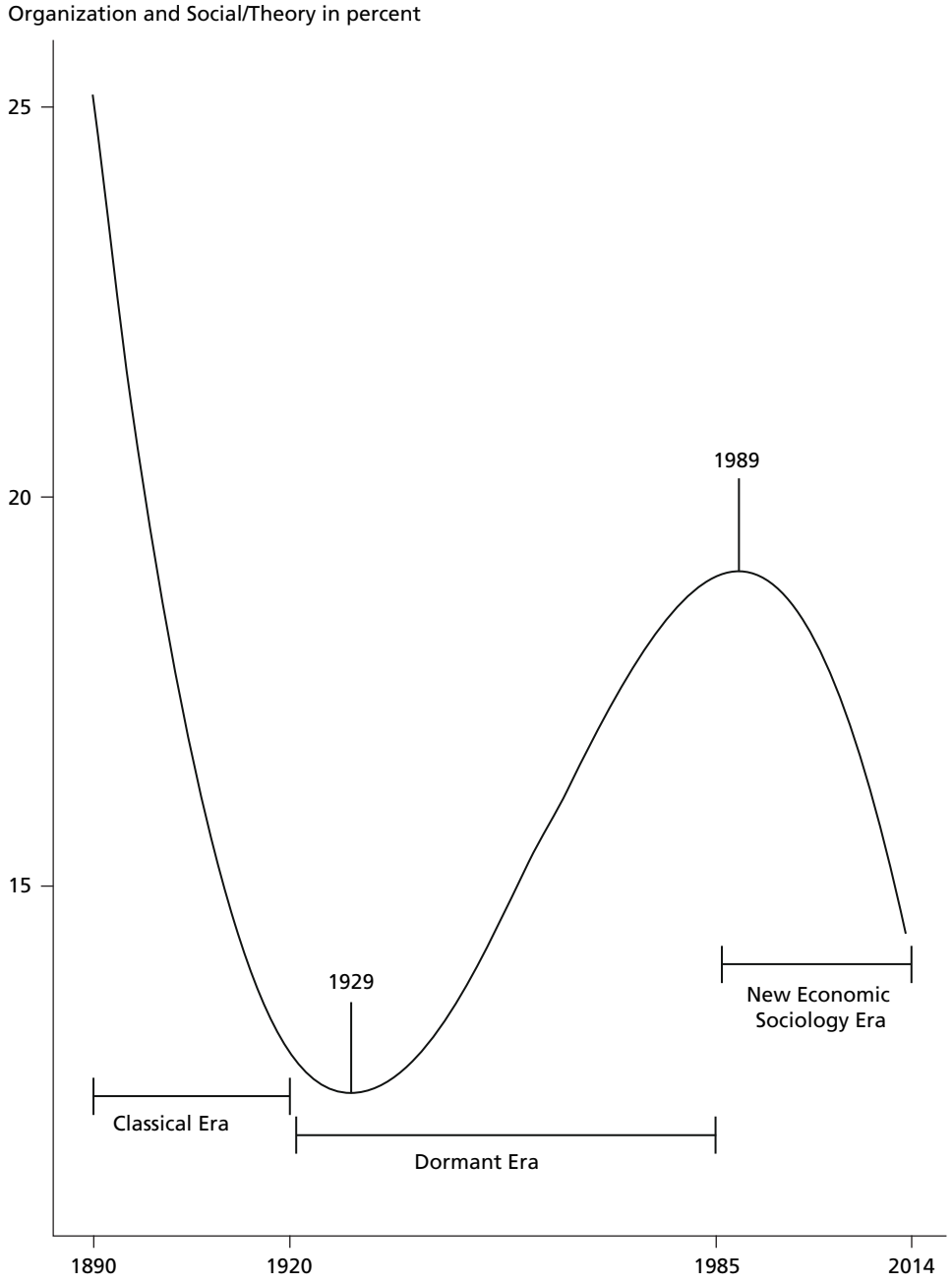
Model 1 decomposes the variance into the variations of between-journal (RP2.var.Intercept) and within-journal (RP1.var.Intercept). This model shows that we have 36.6 percent of the variation between journals and the rest within them (between articles in the same journal). This model also has a superior log-Likelihood (–587256.19) over

Table 5 Multilevel regressions on ECONSOC

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7
Intercept	17.16***			22.22***	21.46***	25.56***	25.36***
	(1.13)			(3.13)	(3.30)	(3.10)	(3.15)
Era1890to1920		5.64***	12.84***				
		(0.28)	(0.73)				
Era1921to1985		17.17***	5.17***				
		(1.16)	(0.21)				
Era1986to2014		17.47***	20.50***				
		(1.23)	(1.40)				
Pagelength		–0.00	–0.03***	–0.01*	–0.01***	–0.02***	–0.02***
		(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Era1890to1920slp			–0.36***				
			(0.04)				
Era1921to1985slp			0.25***				
			(0.02)				
Era1986to2014slp			–0.15***				
			(0.04)				
Years				–0.04	–0.02	–0.75***	–0.73***
				(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.08)
Years2					–0.00	0.01***	0.02
					(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Years3						–0.00***	–0.00**
						(0.00)	(0.00)
Years4							–0.00
							(0.00)
RP2.var.Intercept	179.23			1078.42	1073.24	918.25	918.21
RP1.var.Intercept	310.87	304.29	299.72	300.29	300.29	298.85	298.85
DIC	1174512.38	1171835.00	1169928.88	1170138.50	1170138.00	1169464.88	1169464.75
LogLikelihood	–587256.19	–585917.50	–584964.44	–585069.25	–585069.00	–584732.44	–584732.38
journals	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
articles	136843	136843	136843	136843	136843	136843	136843
RP2.var.Era.1921to1985		170.08					
RP2.cov.Era.1921to1985.Era.1986to2014		162.51					
RP2.var.Era.1986to2014		198.83	254.07				
RP2.var.Era.1921to1985.slp			0.06				
RP2.cov.Era.1921to1985.slp.Era.1986to2014			3.74				
RP2.cov.Era.1921to1985.slp.Era.1986to2014.slp			–0.04				
RP2.cov.Era.1986to2014.Era.1986to2014.slp			–2.37				
RP2.var.Era.1986to2014.slp			0.11				
RP2.cov.Intercept.Years				–8.80	–8.75	–7.34	–7.34
RP2.var.Years				0.09	0.09	0.07	0.07

***p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05. The sum of the organization and social theory topics is the dependent variable in all models. Estimated with R2MLwiN and MLwiN 2.32, IGLS.

Figure 9 Estimated trend of the ECONSOC topic



a single level model (–618039) (not shown in the table). In model 2 and 3 of Table 5, we provide a formal test for the third proposition regarding the U-shaped economic orientation of the discipline of sociology. In model 2 we estimate the average level of the ECONSOC topic. On average, during the classical era between 1890 and 1920, a random sociology article had a 5.64 percent share of ECONSOC. During the intermediary era (1921 to 1985), this topic mix was 17.17 percent on average. During the new

economic sociology era from 1985 onwards, ECONSOC rose to 17.47 percent, which was not significantly different from the hiatus era. Therefore, these observations do not support the third proposition, again controlled for page length and journal clustering.

Another way of looking at the phenomenon is captured by model 3, which includes the trends within each era. At the very beginning of the classical era (around the year 1890), the average sociology article had a 12.84 percent ECONSOC share. The trend within this era (Era1890to1920slp), however, was that the topic mix decreased every year by 0.36 percent. At the start of the intermediary era, the average sociology article is estimated to have had an ECONSOC share of 5.17 percent. The trend (Era1921to1985slp) was an increase of about 0.25 percent every year. This led to an average estimated ECONSOC topic share of 20.50 percent by the beginning of the new economic sociology era. During this era (Era1986to2014slp), the trend again decreased by –0.15 percent every year. Therefore, this model also does not support the third proposition.[21]

The two previous models were constrained to test the level and the trend of a particular topic, with three cut-points (splines). Again, the U-shaped curve does not present the adequate form to capture the ECONSOC trend. Therefore, in models 4 through 7, we fit various polynomial models to the data in order to assess the best functional form of the trend more freely. Comparing the log-Likelihood of these four models, we can see that model 6 (a third degree polynomial function) has the best fit to the data, namely 1169464.88. Figure 9 captures the estimated trend of model 6. This graph tells us that the low point of the ECONSOC topic occurred in 1929 and that the peak occurred by 1989.[22] After that, we enter a period of stagnation or even depression – only future data will tell if this is merely a temporary glitch or a permanent trend.

5 Discussion and conclusions

We started out with five propositions characterizing the conventional view on economic sociology today, specifically that it is said to focus on distinctly economic topics, to be the most vibrant field in sociology, to have a U-shaped trajectory, to be male dominated, and internally diverse. We show in this study that an economic topic, ECON,

21 We tested also for an explicit Within-Between Random Effect estimation as suggested by Bell and Jones (Bell/Jones 2014). We find little evidence for a between-effect with regards to this time variable. This means that we are getting a precise fixed-effect estimator. Using a random effect model instead of a fixed effect model allows us to estimate the within-effect but also estimate the between-journal variance.

22 It should be mentioned that we fitted the same polynomial models as in models 4 through 7 but by letting more slopes vary. Some of these models do improve the fit (log-Likelihood and DIC) but often result in model nonconvergence – most likely due to the unbalanced nature of the data.

exists as a singular topic in sociology, distinct from other topics in sociology. However, our analysis does not find it to be of the expected importance that the conventional story makes us believe. It was important during the classical period, but its relevance has declined ever since. It also turns out that economic sociologists are not promoting this topic as much as they are the topic mix of organization and social theory, which we call ECONSOC. The polynomial regression suggests that, if there is a U-shaped trajectory for ECONSOC, it then all started a bit earlier: with the low point occurring in 1929 and the high point in 1989. This means that the overall take-off of this topic already occurred during the Parsonian era. Still, our findings also suggest that this topic mix went into decline just four years after the publication of the celebrated 1985 article by Granovetter that marks the beginning of the new economic sociology era.

One of the main thrusts of our paper is to show that the self-understanding of economic sociology conflicts with the actual prevalence of economic topics as found by our analysis. In our study, we stick closer to what sociologists actually do instead of what they claim they do. The dearth of economic topics that is often maintained about the pre-1980 period has been contradicted by our empirical analysis. Previous sociology had talked about economic phenomena, even if it might be true that they did not do so under one coherent heading or movement. After all, this is a topic-based history of sociology, not an institutional or theory history of the discipline. While sociologists, in practice, talked about the economy, it might also still hold that dominant theories did not attribute much importance to economic elements in their theories (Baurmann 2001: 380). Finally, the different self-understanding of economic sociologists might also stem from the fact that the number of journals and articles across the fields has exploded over the past decades, just as the number of researchers and the importance of journals has increased. The perceived *absolute* rise of these article numbers in economic sociology is undeniable, but the importance of the discipline diminishes once we compare its *relative* importance to other disciplines. This supports the view that subdiscipline histories might have lost touch with the development of sociology at large.

As it turns out, what economic sociology itself would consider as some of the core texts and authors of their discipline are actually much more pervaded by dominant themes other than economic ones. Thus, the strong presence of organization topics inherited from neo-institutionalism, of quantitative topics from network analysis, and of social theory from post-Parsonian debates show both the heterogeneity of approaches in economic sociology and its roots in other topic areas. On average, a new economic sociologist contributes about 9.8 percent (±2.2 %) to the ECON topic, while she contributes 21.5 percent (±4.6 %) to the organization topic[23] and 22 percent (±5.3 %) to the social theory topic. At the same time, an average sociologist publishing during the New Economic Sociology era (1985–2014) has an equivalent score of 5.1 percent (±0.1 %)

23 Organizational sociology has been a booming field ever since WWII (Scott 2004). It differentiated itself from other fields and developed into a field with its own journals, professional groups (Augier/March/Sullivan 2005), and ever denser citations of its own concepts (Bort/Schiller 2011).

pertaining to the ECON topic; during the hiatus era (1920–1984), the same sociologist would have a score of 7 percent (±0.1 %). She would have an even higher score during the classical era, 13.8 percent (±0.5 %). Thus, empirically oriented political economy researchers are the propellers of ECON, not the new economic sociologists.

In this sense, the article finding can also be read positively as an invitation to sociologists to look across disciplines and narrow key-term searches for common topics in sociology. As it turns out, many economic topics, such as occupational sociology, existed even in the Parsonian era. Although sometimes mentioned (Aspers/Dodd/Anderberg 2015), they are excluded from what is perceived now as the common canon of economic sociology, despite the fact that they were relatively more important in their era than economic sociology is today.

The findings of this study are, of course, restrained by the data limitations which we initially mentioned: English-centeredness, a restricted sample of journals, and no books. We presented a plausible argument why we do not consider our findings to be distorted by this, at least not within the field of English-language sociology. All of these limitations can, in principle, be overcome in future studies. Other article-providing platforms such as EBSCO can be used to complement the JSTOR data; individual journals and additional volumes can be added to the corpus to see whether this changes any of the results. More book reviews published in other journals can offer initial insights into the topics of the reviewed books, and the ongoing digitalization of ever more sociology books will also make it possible to extend the journal corpus into the book area. The study can be replicated for other languages as well, although the mix of several languages within one topic-model is problematic.

With regard to the explanatory side, more meta-data can be extracted from the text data or even taken from other external sources to add more control and explanatory variables into our models. This offers a virtually unexploited field of future research, linking precise topics with collaboration networks, university affiliations, researchers' careers, etc. Much of the work done in bibliometrics on the basis only of titles or abstracts can now be refined by a larger basis of textual data.

The topic-model results can also be employed for academic purposes other than the description and explanation of topic trends: journals can better situate themselves in the academic landscape, can better describe their topic mix over time, and use this information in the selection of new contributions. Authors, in turn, can use the model results in their literature searches of new topics, thus conducting a content-based search rather than a discipline-based one, as is often implicitly done. They can find out about articles that are close to their own contributions topic-wise and thus discover commonalities beyond disciplinary boundaries.

Appendix

Tables

Figures

Table A-1 Journal description

	Journal	Coverage	Articles	Average pages
1	Acta Sociologica	1955–2013	1,061	14.6
2	Acta Turistica	1989–2011	225	19.8
3	Administrative Science Quarterly	1956–2012	1,471	20.7
4	Advances in Sex Research	1963–1963	28	8.8
5	American Journal of Economics and Sociology	1941–2013	3,101	13.9
6	American Journal of Sociology	1895–2014	5,333	13.7
7	American Sociological Review	1936–2013	5,303	11.6
8	Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science	1890–2013	13,424	10.6
9	Annual Review of Sociology	1975–2012	798	24.2
10	Anlise Social	1964–2014	66	24.1
11	Archives de sciences sociales des religions	1974–2008	99	17.9
12	Archives de sociologie des religions	1959–1972	35	10.2
13	Arts et traditions populaires	1961–1961	1	56
14	Asian Journal of Social Science	2001–2008	225	20.5
15	Aula	1990–1992	58	11.7
16	Berkeley Journal of Sociology	1959–2010	363	22.4
17	British Journal of Educational Studies	1952–2013	1,069	14.8
18	Cahiers Internationaux de Sociologie	1969–2006	2	14
19	Cahiers Vilfredo Pareto	1963–1971	6	17.3
20	Children's Environments	1992–1995	100	10.3
21	Children's Environments Quarterly	1984–1991	253	6.3
22	Children, Youth and Environments	2003–2014	482	
23	Civilisations	1951–2009	561	14.0
24	Comparative Studies in Society and History	1958–2013	1,531	23.7
25	Contagion	2006–2014	94	13.8
26	Contemporary Sociology	1973–2013	467	3.4
27	Contexts	2002–2013	625	4.0
28	Crime and Justice	1979–2014	368	39.1
29	Critical Historical Studies	2014–2014	11	
30	Culture, Health, and Sexuality	1999–2013	712	14.9
31	Czech Sociological Review	1966–2010	228	17.4
32	Egyetemi Szemle	1985–1985	1	15
33	Environmental Values	1992–2013	569	16.8
34	Estudios Sociológicos	1992–1992	1	05
35	Ethnologie française	1992–2013	23	8.8
36	European Sociological Review	1985–2013	727	16.2
37	Family Relations	1980–2013	1,972	8.5
38	French Politics and Society	1985–1999	217	11.2
39	French Politics, Culture, and Society	1999–2012	211	16.7
40	Gender and Society	1987–2013	902	19.4
41	German Politics and Society	1986–2013	580	17.2
42	German Studies Newsletter	1983–1986	69	3.6
43	Historische Sozialforschung	1979–2012	836	17.8
44	Humboldt Journal of Social Relations	1973–2010	441	21.2
45	Industrial and Labor Relations Review	1947–2011	2,310	14
46	International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society	1987–2013	610	18.9
47	International Journal of Sociology	1971–2012	678	25.5
48	International Journal of Sociology of the Family	1971–2010	621	14.4
49	International Review of Modern Sociology	1972–2010	529	16.5
50	International Review of Qualitative Research	2014–2014	7	
51	International Review of Sociology	1971–1971	15	11.5
52	International Social Science Review	1982–2009	371	9.8
53	Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion	1961–2013	1,959	11.7
54	Journal for the Study of Radicalism	2007–2014	119	14.4
55	Journal of Applied Social Science	2007–2010	61	11.7
56	Journal of Black Studies	1970–2013	1,569	17.5
57	Journal of Educational Sociology	1927–1963	2,412	7.3
58	Journal of Haitian Studies	1995–2012	230	15.6
59	Journal of Health and Human Behavior	1960–1966	231	7.5
60	Journal of Health and Social Behavior	1967–2012	1,553	12.8
61	Journal of Marriage and Family	1964–2013	4,282	10.9
62	Journal of Palestine Studies	1971–2014	3,036	6.6
63	Journal of Social Forces	1922–1925	356	4.7
64	Journal of the History of Sexuality	1990–2012	385	24.9
65	Kansas Journal of Sociology	1964–1975	161	10.8
66	L'Année sociologique	1995–2012	17	22.2
67	Language in Society	1972–2013	721	22.9
68	Law and Society Review	1966–2013	1,300	26.3
69	Le Mouvement social	1980–1999	198	18.1
70	Living	1939–1940	65	2.8
71	MERIP Middle East Report	1971–1988	795	4.7
72	Marriage and Family Living	1941–1963	1,102	4.3
73	Michigan Sociological Review	1982–2012	179	19.5
74	Mid-American Review of Sociology	1976–1996	190	16.4
75	Middle East Report	1988–2010	1,050	4.1
76	Philippine Sociological Review	1953–1997	215	12.0
77	Polish Sociological Review	1993–2011	515	14.9
78	Political Behavior	1979–2013	672	21.8

Table A-1, continued

79	QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking	2013–2013	16	
80	QUANTUM Information	1976–1979	15	5.1
81	Race, Gender, and Class	1995–2010	532	17.5
82	Race, Poverty, and the Environment	1990–2012	820	2.6
83	Race, Sex, and Class	1993–1994	26	16.3
84	Reis	1988–2011	8	20
85	Review of Religious Research	1959–2013	1,254	12.9
86	Review of Social Economy	1942–2014	1,339	15.1
87	Revista Mexicana de Sociología	1980–1980	2	28.5
88	Revista española de la opinión pública	1971–1976	7	28.1
89	Revue europeénne des sciences sociales	1972–2004	104	18.0
90	Revue française de sociologie	2001–2010	59	26.5
91	Rivista internazionale di scienze sociali e discipline ausiliarie	1908–1910	4	17.8
92	Rivista Internazionale di Scienze Sociali	1968–2008	207	20.7
93	Signs	1975–2014	1,853	11.4
94	Social Analysis	1979–2013	781	16.8
95	Social Choice and Welfare	1984–2013	1,391	16.8
96	Social Forces	1925–2013	5,351	13.3
97	Social Indicators Research	1974–2012	2,228	20.8
98	Social Issues in Israel	2008–2008	1	15.0
99	Social Problems	1953–2014	2,297	10.4
100	Social Psychology	1978–1978	41	8.6
101	Social Psychology Quarterly	1979–2012	1,049	12.4
102	Social Research	1934–2010	2,620	21.4
103	Social Science	1930–1981	1,532	5.9
104	Social Science History	1976–2013	790	24.7
105	Social Science Quarterly	1968–2013	2,349	12.3
106	Social Scientist	1972–2012	1,584	15
107	Social Thought and Research	1997–2010	99	24.4
108	Society and Economy	2002–2012	189	18.5
109	Society and Economy in Central and Eastern Europe	1995–2001	179	19.5
110	Sociological Analysis	1964–1992	761	11.5
111	Sociological Bulletin	1952–2011	724	16.9
112	Sociological Focus	1967–2012	1,111	14.6
113	Sociological Forum	1986–2013	851	20.7
114	Sociological Methodology	1969–2012	494	30.8
115	Sociological Perspectives	1983–2010	870	11.7
116	Sociological Theory	1983–2012	594	17.3
117	Sociologie du Travail	2005–2010	5	17.8
118	Sociologisk Forskning	1964–2010	15	10.9
119	Sociology	1967–2011	1,618	15.9
120	Sociology of Education	1963–2012	1,080	15.9
121	Sociology of Religion	1993–2013	467	17.8
122	Sociometry	1937–1977	1,346	12.4
123	Soziale Welt	1978–2008	14	15.6
124	Spectrum: A Journal on Black Men	2012–2014	33	
125	State Crime Journal	2012–2014	24	9.9
126	State, Culture, and Society	1984–1985	29	22.2
127	Studies in Popular Culture	1977–2012	519	13.8
128	Symbolic Interaction	1977–2010	902	
129	Teaching Sociology	1973–2013	1,484	9.5
130	The Academy of Management Journal	1963–2013	2,840	15.6
131	The Academy of Management Review	1976–2013	1,728	14.6
132	The American Catholic Sociological Review	1940–1963	432	9.8
133	The American Sociologist	1965–2013	1,675	8.6
134	The Black Scholar	1969–2014	2,334	4.9
135	The British Journal of Sociology	1950–2013	1,715	16.6
136	The Canadian Journal of Sociology	1975–2007	691	17.6
137	The Coordinator	1952–1959	133	4.1
138	The Family Coordinator	1968–1979	786	6.0
139	The Family Life Coordinator	1959–1967	168	5.2
140	The Journal of Human Resources	1966–2008	1,546	20.0
141	The Journal of Modern African Studies	1963–2012	1,478	19.6
142	The Journal of Sex Research	1965–2013	1,757	10.9
143	The Journal of the Academy of Management	1958–1962	109	8.0
144	The Midwest Sociologist	1940–1959	224	3.4
145	The Pacific Sociological Review	1958–1982	559	13.4
146	The Peninsular Papers	1977–1977	5	14.4
147	The Public Opinion Quarterly	1937–2012	3,346	13.7
148	The Sociological Quarterly	1960–2012	1,910	16.2
149	The Southwestern Political Science Quarterly	1920–1923	53	14.9
150	The Southwestern Political and Social Science Quarterly	1923–1931	177	15.9
151	The Southwestern Social Science Quarterly	1931–1968	1,004	10.4
152	Theory and Society	1974–2013	1,008	26.8
153	VOLUNTAS	1990–2014	560	19.6
154	Work, Employment, and Society	1987–2011	827	18.6
155	Zeitschrift für Soziologie	1972–2011	59	14.3
156	Études Durkheimiennes	1998–2012	85	12.7

Table A-2 Top 60 public-oriented articles in the AJS and the ASR

	Article	Journal	Year	Authors	Public	Education	Law/Crime	Global/Issues	Gender/Family	Work/Labor	Economic	Organization	Social/Theory	Culture.Generic	Micro.Individual	Religion	Ethnicity/Race	Politics/State	Analytic/Quant
1	Government	AJS	1930	J. P. Chamberlain	0.97	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
2	Government	AJS	1932	J. P. Chamberlain	0.97	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Government	AJS	1929	J. P. Chamberlain	0.96	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
4	The Municipal League of Philadelphia	AJS	1905	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
5	Government	AJS	1928	J. P. Chamberlain	0.95	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
6	The Horseshoers' Strike of Philadelphia	AJS	1902	Frank E. Horack	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	The United States Supreme Court and the Utah Eight-Hours' ...	AJS	1898	Florence Kelley	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	The Recovery Law	AJS	1934	C. L. Dearing, Leverett S. Lyon	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Concerning a Minor Reform in Indiana	AJS	1901	Alexander Johnson	0.94	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
10	The Law Relating to the Relief and Care of Dependents. VI	AJS	1898	H. A. Millis	0.94	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
11	Labor Legislation	AJS	1929	John B. Andrews	0.94	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Conditions Relating to the Treatment of Employees and Labor ...	AJS	1900	Edmund J. James	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	The New York Building Trades Paralysis of 1903	AJS	1904	Hayes Robbins	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
14	How Chicago Met the Unemployment Problem of 1915	AJS	1915	C. R. Henderson	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Progress in Philadelphia	AJS	1920	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.91	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01
16	Social and Labor Legislation	AJS	1931	Samuel McCune Lindsay	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Municipal Review 1907–1908	AJS	1909	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.91	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00
18	Philadelphia Street-Railway Franchises.	AJS	1901	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	The Minnesota System in the Management of Public Charitable ...	AJS	1908	Samuel G. Smith	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	The Charities Chapter of the Greater New York Charter	AJS	1901	Homer Folks	0.91	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00
21	The Board of Control in Minnesota	AJS	1901	Samuel G. Smith	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Industrial Insurance. V. The Employers' Liability Law	AJS	1907	Charles Richmond Henderson	0.90	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Anti-Monopoly Legislation in the United States	AJS	1896	J. D. Forrest	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
24	Cities and Towns Mobilize for War	ASR	1944	Wladislava S. Frost	0.90	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
25	The Subsidizing of Private Charities	AJS	1901	Frank A. Fetter	0.90	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	A Year's Municipal Development	AJS	1901	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00
27	Principles of Public Charity and of Private Philanthropy in Germany	AJS	1897	E. Muensterberg	0.90	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.00
28	Some Permanent Results of the Philadelphia Upheaval of 1905–06	AJS	1907	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.00
29	Government	AJS	1931	J. P. Chamberlain	0.90	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	A Review of Municipal Events, 1906-7	AJS	1908	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.89	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00
31	Municipal Review, 1908–1909	AJS	1910	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.89	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.00
32	Municipal Review 1909–1910	AJS	1911	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.89	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.00
33	Government	AJS	1933	J. P. Chamberlain	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	The Relation of Municipal Government to American Democratic ...	AJS	1905	L. S. Rowe	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00
35	Statement to the Presidents of the Constituent Companies ...	AJS	1920	Edward T. Devine	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
36	The Present Status of the Public Service	AJS	1922	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.88	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37	Factory Inspection in the United States	AJS	1907	Belva M. Herron	0.88	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38	Public Service Through Chambers of Commerce	AJS	1921	W. J. Donald	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
39	Foreign Policy	AJS	1929	Raymond Leslie Buell	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00
40	Politics in Public Institutions of Charity and Correction	AJS	1898	C. R. Henderson	0.88	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00
41	The Charity Franchise	AJS	1914	Robert W. Kelso	0.88	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
42	Insurance of Industrial Working-Men as an Instrument of ...	AJS	1906	Arnold C. Klebs	0.87	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
43	Social and Labor Legislation	AJS	1928	John B. Andrews	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
44	Practical Municipal Progress	AJS	1906	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.87	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.09	0.00
45	Public Outdoor Relief	AJS	1900	F. B. Sanborn Levi L. Barbour C. R	0.87	0.87	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
46	Social Legislation	AJS	1929	Samuel McCune Lindsay	0.87	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
47	The City-Manager Plan	AJS	1928	Clinton Rogers Woodruff	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.00
48	Congressional Opposition to Pure Food Legislation, 1879–1906	AJS	1930	Thomas A. Bailey	0.86	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.00
49	The Need of a Socialized Jurisprudence	AJS	1917	Peter Alexander Speek	0.86	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
50	Industrial Insurance. XI. Protective Legislation	AJS	1908	Charles Richmond Henderson	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
51	Social Technology and the Courts in Modern Times	ASR	1945	T. Swann Harding	0.86	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
52	The Courts and Factory Legislation	AJS	1900	George W. Alger	0.86	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
53	Principles of Public Charity and Private Philanthropy in Germany	AJS	1897	E. Muensterberg	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
54	Workmen's Compensation or Insurance of Workmen and Their ...	AJS	1912	James Harrington Boyd	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
55	Industrial Insurance. VIII. Insurance Plans of Railroad Corporations	AJS	1908	Charles Richmond Henderson	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
56	A Decade of Official Poor-Relief in Indiana	AJS	1906	Amos W. Butler	0.85	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.02
57	Public Ownership and Popular Government	AJS	1906	William Horace Brown	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
58	Social and Labor Legislation	AJS	1930	Samuel McCune Lindsay	0.85	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
59	Industrial Insurance. XII. Survey and Outlook	AJS	1909	Charles Richmond Henderson	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
60	Social and Labor Legislation	AJS	1932	Charles W. Pipkin	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00

Table A-3 Top 60 organization-oriented articles in the AJS and the ASR

	Title			Authors	Public	Education	Law/Crime	Global/Issues	Gender/Family	Work/Labor	Economic	Organization	Social/Theory	Culture/Generic	Micro/Individual	Religion	Ethnicity/Race	Politics/State	Analytic/Quant
1	The Social Construction of Market Value: Institutionalizat...	ASR	2004	James D. Westphal, Edward J. Zajac	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.80	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
2	Bank Control, Owner Control, or Organizational Dynamics: W...	AJS	1992	Neil Fligstein, Peter Brantley	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.76	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
3	Economic Crisis and the Centralization of Control Over the...	ASR	1994	Harland Prechel	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.07	0.76	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	The Ties That Bind: Organizational and Class Bases of Stab...	ASR	1986	Roger Friedland, Donald Palmer, Jiten...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.76	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.06
5	Size, Centralization and Organizational Adoption of Innova...	ASR	1977	Edward V. Morse, Michael K. Moch	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
6	The Friendly and Predatory Acquisition of Large U.S. Corpo...	ASR	1995	Brad M. Barber, Yasemin Soysal, Donal...	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.73	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.03
7	Networks of Power or the Finance Conception of Control? Co...	ASR	1995	Neil Fligstein	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.20	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00
8	The Finance Conception of Control – "The Theory That Ate Ne..."	ASR	1995	Brad M. Barber, Donald Palmer, Xuegua…	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.72	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
9	Cultivating an Institutional Ecology of Organizations: Com...	ASR	1995	Joel A. C. Baum, Walter W. Powell	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.71	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.03	0.00
10	Automation and Bureaucratic Structure	AJS	1968	Marshall W. Meyer	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12
11	Embeddedness in the Making of Financial Capital: How Socia...	ASR	1999	Brian Uzzi	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.71	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.04
12	The Decline and Fall of the Conglomerate Firm in the 1980s...	ASR	1994	Catherine H. Tinsley, Kristina A. Die…	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.71	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
13	Market Networks and Corporate Behavior	AJS	1990	Wayne E. Baker	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.70	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17
14	Determinants of Administrative Control: A Test of a Theory...	ASR	1976	Phelps Tracy, Koya Azumi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.70	0.02	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
15	Should Sociological Theories Venture into \Economic Territ...	ASR	2004	James D. Westphal, Edward J. Zajac	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.21	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
16	An Examination of the Determinants of Organizational Struc...	AJS	1983	Hiroshi Mannari, Cheng-Kuang Hsu, Rob…	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.70	0.02	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12
17	The Sources and Consequences of Embeddedness for the Econo...	ASR	1996	Brian Uzzi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.69	0.04	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.11
18	Hazards of the Market: The Continuity and Dissolution of I...	ASR	1998	Robert R. Faulkner, Gene A. Fisher, W…	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.68	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
19	Determinants of Coordination Modes within Organizations	ASR	1976	Andrew H. Van De Ven, Richard Koenig…	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
20	Keiretsu Networks in the Japanese Economy: A Dyad Analysis...	ASR	1992	James R. Lincoln, Peggy Takahashi, Mi…	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.19	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
21	The Spread of the Multidivisional Form Among Large Firms, ...	ASR	1985	Neil Fligstein	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.68	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
22	Where Do Interorganizational Networks Come From?	AJS	1999	Martin Gargiulo, Ranjay Gulati	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.67	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.25
23	Lost in Space: The Geography of Corporate Interlocking Dir...	AJS	1998	Matthew Zafonte, Roger Friedland, Don…	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.02	0.05
24	The Effects of Organizational and Political Embeddedness o...	ASR	2010	Theresa Morris, Harland Prechel	0.15	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.67	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00
25	Corporate Elite Networks and Governance Changes in the 198..	AJS	1997	Henrich R. Greve, Gerald F. Davis	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.16
26	A Role-Based Ecology of Technological Change	AJS	1995	Toby E. Stuart, Joel M. Podolny	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.67	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
27	Leaving a Legacy: Position Imprints and Successor Turnover...	ASR	2007	M. Diane Burton, Christine M. Beckman…	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.66	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Transplanted Organizations: The Transfer of Japanese Indus...	ASR	1991	Martin Kenney, Richard Florida	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.13	0.66	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
29	The Structure of Interorganizational Elite Cooptation: Int...	ASR	1974	Michael Patrick Allen	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.65	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.06
30	The Intraorganizational Power Struggle: Rise of Finance Pe...	ASR	1987	Neil Fligstein	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.08	0.65	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
31	Testing a Structural Theory of Corporate Cooptation: Inter...	ASR	1980	Ronald S. Burt, Kenneth P. Christman…	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.65	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
32	Here a Chief, There a Chief: The Rise of the CFO in the Am...	ASR	2004	Dirk M. Zorn	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.65	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
33	Building the Iron Cage: Determinants of Managerial Intensi...	ASR	1999	Michael T. Hannan, M. Diane Burton, J…	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.64	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
34	Interlocking Directorates and Interest Group Formation	ASR	1981	Michael Schwartz, Beth Mintz	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.06	0.05
35	Engineering Growth: Business Group Structure and Firm Perf...	AJS	1998	Lisa A. Keister	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.18	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.06
36	Embeddedness and Contractual Relationships in China's Tran...	ASR	2003	Wei Zhao, Xueguang Zhou, He Cai, Qian…	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.12	0.63	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04
37	Markets as Politics: A Political-Cultural Approach to Mark...	ASR	1996	Neil Fligstein	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.63	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.12	0.00
38	The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Col...	ASR	1983	Paul J. DiMaggio, Walter W. Powell	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00
39	Towards the Social Reconstruction of an Interdisciplinary ...	ASR	2004	Ezra W. Zuckerman	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.63	0.22	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	Organizational Niches and the Dynamics of Organizational M...	AJS	1994	Joel A. C. Baum, Jitendra V. Singh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.15	0.00	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.12
41	New Process Technology, Job Design, and Work Organization:...	ASR	1990	Maryellen R. Kelley	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.62	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
42	Economic Behavior in Institutional Environments: The Corpo...	ASR	1996	Linda Brewster Stearns, Kenneth D. Al…	0.11	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.62	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.00
43	Social Movements, Risk Perceptions, and Economic Outcomes:...	ASR	2012	Brayden G. King, Ion Bogdan Vasi	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.03	0.12	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.05
44	Resources and Relationships: Social Networks and Mobility ...	ASR	1997	James N. Baron, Joel M. Podolny	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.61	0.02	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02
45	Institutional Embeddedness and the Dynamics of Organizatio...	ASR	1992	Christine Oliver, Joel A. C. Baum	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.21	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.03
46	Structural Inertia and Organizational Change	ASR	1984	Michael T. Hannan, John Freeman	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.60	0.17	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13
47	Organization Size and Failure Among Health Maintenance Org...	ASR	1992	Jon B. Christianson, Douglas R. Whole…	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03
48	The Myth of the M-Form? Governance, Consent, and Organizat...	AJS	1996	Robert F. Freeland	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.04	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
49	Organizational Size, Complexity, and Formalization	ASR	1967	J. Eugene Haas, Richard H. Hall, Norm…	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20
50	Technology and the Structure of Organizations	ASR	1968	Edward Harvey	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22
51	Networks, Knowledge, and Niches: Competition in the Worldw...	AJS	1996	Michael T. Hannan, Toby E. Stuart, Jo…	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.59	0.05	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24
52	Theory Building and Cheap Talk About Legitimation: Reply t...	ASR	1995	Michael T. Hannan, Glenn R. Carroll	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.59	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.05	0.00
53	Who Pays the Price of Brokerage? Transferring Constraint t...	ASR	2007	Isabel Fernandez-Mateo	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14
54	The Conditional Nature of Embeddedness: A Study of Borrowi...	ASR	2006	Linda Brewster Stearns, Mark S. Mizru…	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.03	0.59	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.13
55	From Streets to Suites: How the Anti-Biotech Movement Affe...	ASR	2009	Hayagreeva Rao, Klaus Weber, L. G. Th…	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.58	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00
56	Risk and Trust in Social Exchange: An Experimental Test of...	AJS	2000	Linda D. Molm, Gretchen Peterson, Nob…	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.05	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21
57	A Clash of Capitalisms: Foreign Shareholders and Corporate...	ASR	2005	Gregory E. Robbins, Christina L. Ahma…	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.22	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
58	Power and Privilege in the Large Corporation: Corporate Co...	AJS	1981	Michael Patrick Allen	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.16	0.00	0.58	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
59	Embeddedness and Price Formation in the Corporate Law Mark..	ASR	2004	Brian Uzzi, Ryon Lancaster	0.02	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.07	0.58	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02
60	The Coupling of the Symbolic and the Technical in an Insti...	ASR	1999	Onker N. Basu, Mark W. Dirsmith, Parv…	0.22	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.11	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00

Table A-4 Correlations between topics

	Public	Education	Law/ Crime	Global/ Issues	Gender/ Family	Work/ Labor	Economic	Organi- zation	Social/ Theory	Culture/ Generic	Micro/ Individual	Religion	Ethnicity/ Race	Politics/ State
Public														
Education	–0.06***													
Law/Crime	–0.03***	–0.07***												
Global/Issues	–0.04***	–0.06***	–0.05***											
Gender/Family	–0.19***	–0.05***	0.00	–0.05***										
Work/Labor	–0.15***	–0.05***	–0.06***	–0.07***	0.06***									
Economic	0.08***	–0.13***	–0.11***	0.03***	–0.14***	–0.07***								
Organization	–0.11***	–0.07***	–0.05***	–0.07***	–0.14***	–0.02***	–0.05***							
Social/Theory	–0.22***	–0.08***	–0.07***	–0.04***	–0.15***	–0.15***	–0.09***	–0.06***						
Culture/Generic	–0.16***	–0.05***	–0.03***	0.04***	–0.04***	–0.22***	–0.13***	–0.13***	–0.01***					
Micro/Individual	–0.26***	–0.05***	0.03***	–0.11***	0.17***	–0.07***	–0.20***	0.00	–0.17***	–0.19***				
Religion	–0.03***	–0.09***	–0.08***	–0.01***	–0.10***	–0.11***	–0.06***	–0.11***	–0.05***	0.00	–0.07***			
Ethnicity/Race	–0.10***	–0.04***	–0.01***	–0.02***	–0.04***	0.04***	–0.05***	–0.10***	–0.12***	–0.04***	–0.03***	–0.06***		
Politics/State	0.00	–0.12***	–0.09***	0.07***	–0.17***	–0.08***	–0.02***	–0.06***	–0.03***	–0.06***	–0.12***	0.01*	–0.06***	
Analytic/Quant	–0.18***	–0.07***	–0.03***	–0.06***	–0.10***	0.04***	–0.07***	0.01**	–0.07***	–0.16***	0.03***	–0.11***	–0.04***	–0.07***

Figure A-1 Article development over time

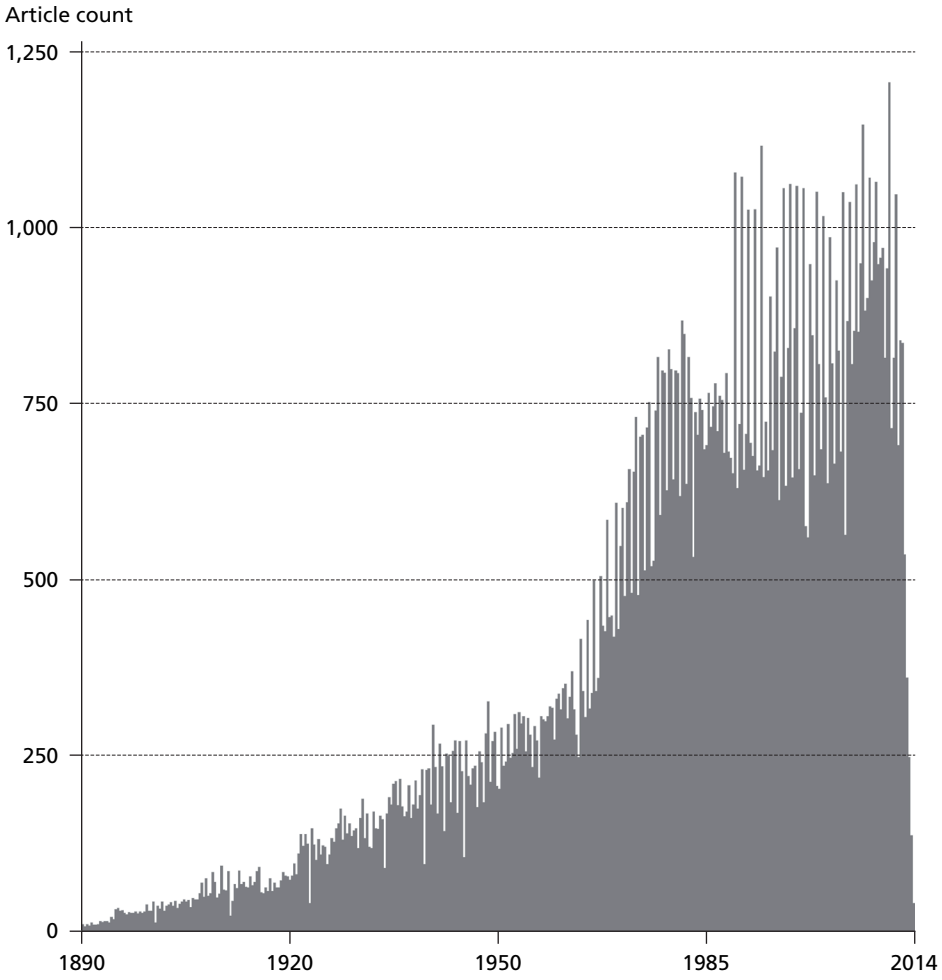
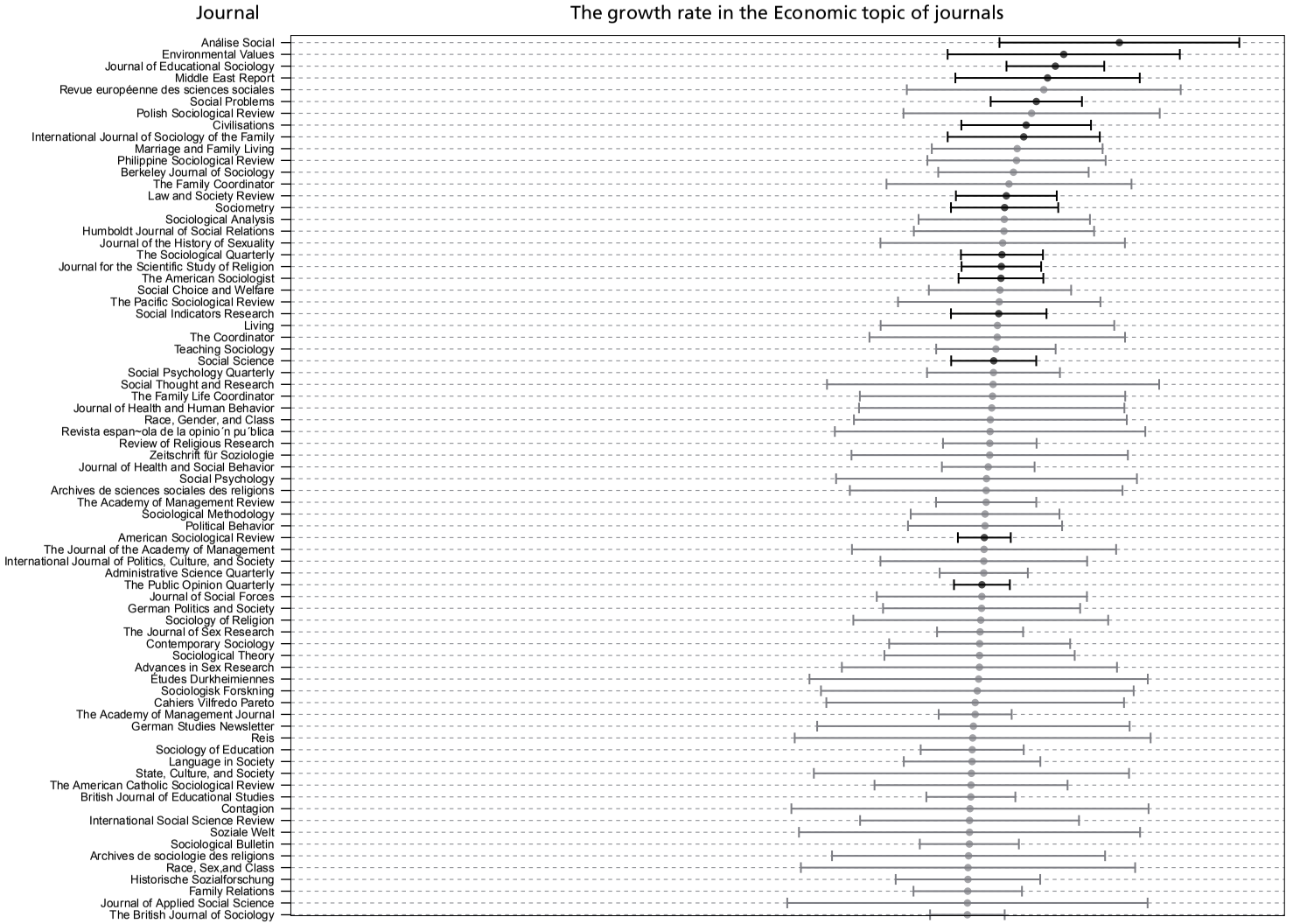
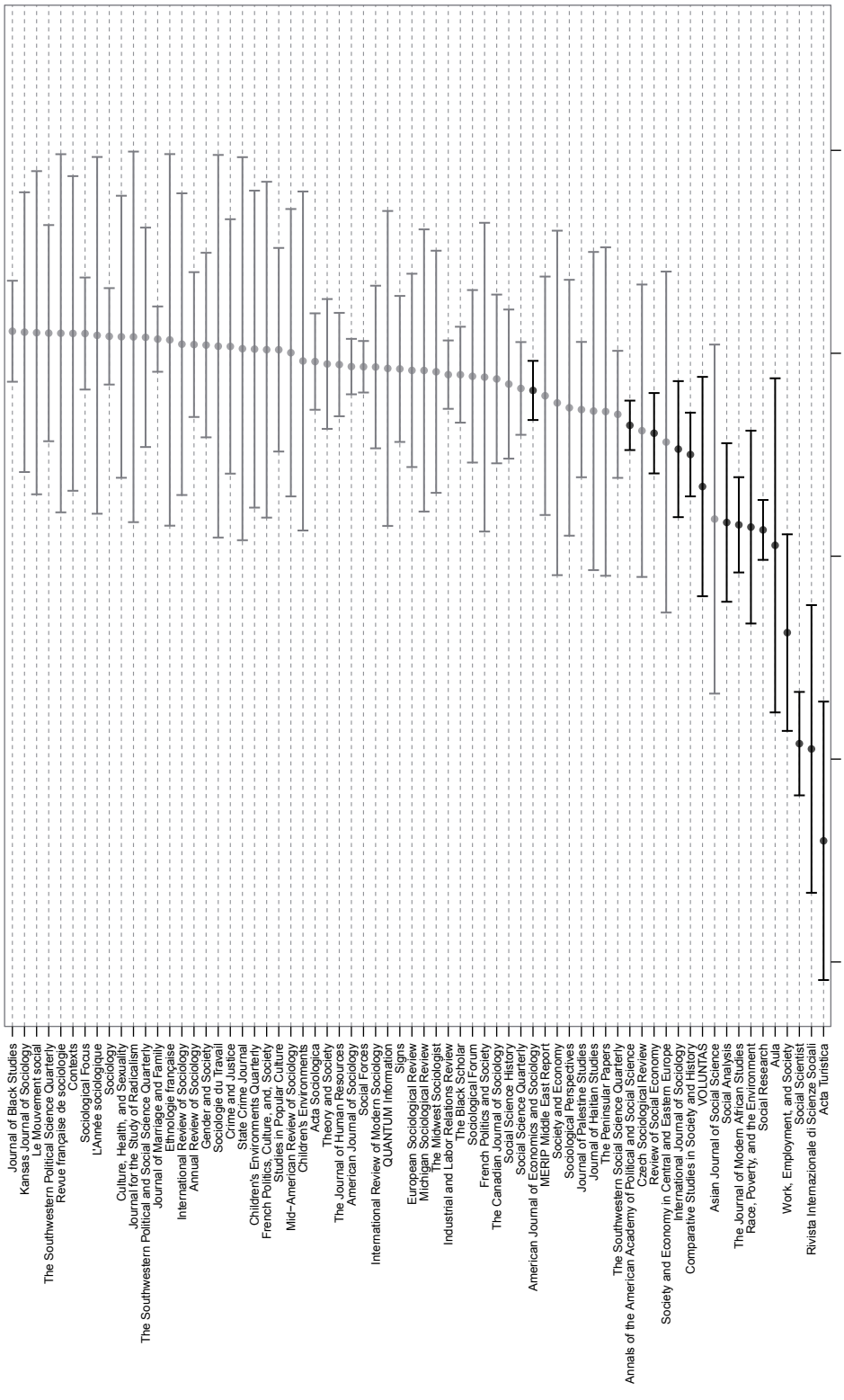


Figure A-2 Journal ranking by deviation from slope of ECON model 7





Notes: (a) Authors' calculations. (b) The caterpillar plot is based on the multilevel modeling estimation. It depicts the slope residual rank of the 143 journals included in estimating the Economic topic (model 7). (c) For journals above the zero-line, their economic topic orientation is growing at a faster pace than journals below the zero-line. Journals at the zero-line have an economic orientation growth.

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