



UCD School of Sociology – Seminar Series 2017-2018

Thursday, Oct 12th, 2017, 1.00pm

Speaker: Dr. Bridget Fowler – University of Glasgow

Pierre Bourdieu: theorist of the iron law of social reproduction? Further considerations, with particular reference to Bourdieu's posthumously-published works: *On the State* (2014 [2012]), *Sociologie Générale* (2015) and *Manet: A Symbolic Revolution* (2017[2016])

Abstract: Bourdieu's corpus of works have provoked a highly-critical response from both orthodox Marxists and sociologists of other traditions. Although accepting certain of his observations about the force of educational capital, they accuse him of having a highly-restrictive account of responses to social rules, a theory of habitus that is merely a black box and a mechanistic account of social reproduction that puts paid to any social movements towards human emancipation. Although herself critical of aspects of Bourdieu, the author of this paper defends the claim that accepting Bourdieu's more complex account of capitals as the genesis of social domination does not entail removing *all* sources of resistance or drives towards feasible utopian alternatives. It will lean on Bourdieu's accounts of the wider purposes of his social theorising (2015), his mature theory of the State (2014) and the recent publication of his research on Manet's symbolic revolution.