

Social Networks and Capital Formation

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This talk examines the theoretical relationship between social networks and various forms of capital. The most notable forms include human capital, social capital, political capital, and cultural capital. Each type of capital has implications for understanding network structure and dynamics at both the micro and macro levels of analysis. An important aspect of these forms of capital is that they should get groups or individuals something, that is there should be some outcome stemming from groups or individuals that garner such capital. Outcomes can include power, wealth, access, protection, trust, “profits of distinction”, etc. Structural properties of individuals or groups either hinder or facilitate the dynamic development and maintenance of capital in these various forms. The talk focuses particular attention on the dynamic structural elements of capital formation with respect to political, social, and cultural capital.