

Sociology 915, October 5, 2004
Agenda, session 5: methodological individualism

1. **Multiple realizability** of macro states (Matt Nichter, Matt Desmond, Matt Dimick)
2. **Types and Tokens** (Wayne, Mara, Eva)
3. **Empirical resolution**: is the impossibility of type-type reductions simply an empirical question, not a logical one? (Matt Dimick, Fabian)
4. **Marx**: what is at stake in the individualist reconstruction? (Wayne, Matias) Can “Laws of motion of capital” be expressed in terms of individualist mechanisms? (Matias) Objective interests and Subjective Interests: can objective interests be explanatory mechanisms? (Matias)
5. **Observational theories/mechanisms**: are these different for micro and macro phenomena? Does standpoint matter more for one than the other? (Ana)
6. **contrasting images of micro/macro**: the macro constrains the micro vs macro as a sui generis level (Ana) Separation of micro & micro vs the micro *in* the macro. (Matt Desmond, Mara)
7. **Relations as explanatory**: what precisely does it mean to say “relations” are explanatory, and does this violate individualism (or even maybe atomism)? (Dimick) Isn't it transparently obvious that structures/institutions shape the micro-effects on macro phenomena – and thus there is a micro-macro interaction in the link of micro-to-macro? (Fabian)?
8. **Individual-level mechanisms**: cold vs hot explanations. (Brett)
9. **Metaphysics**: Is the claim that only individuals can be actors a metaphysical claim? (Graham)