



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Public Policy Center

Sociological Perspectives on Giftedness and Gifted Education



Monday, October 10, 2016

1:30 - 3:00 pm

W113 Seashore Hall

Arne Boker

Researcher

University of Hildesheim, Germany

This talk is about the sociological perspectives on giftedness and gifted education. The talk consists of two main parts. In the first part I will present existing findings of sociological research on giftedness and gifted education. This mainly includes findings of researchers in the field of sociology of education since the 1960's. To render it more precise, I will talk about the nature-nurture debate, social inequality in gifted education programs and experiences of the – so called – gifted students. While these findings are important to disprove key ideas of gifted education scholars, the sociological approaches they are based on, do not challenge the concept of giftedness in general. Thus, in the second part of my talk I will discuss the theoretical frameworks which question the social category of giftedness. I will present the main ideas of "Goodness Personified", which are based mainly on the theoretical frameworks of Foucault and Nietzsche, and will share the first results of my PhD-project, which uses the concept of the Economy of Worth, developed by Boltanski/Thévenot (2007) and Boltanski/Chiapello (2003).

This talk is part of the **Inequality Seminar** which is a seminar and speaker series that provides a forum on campus for faculty and graduate students who are interested in inequality broadly defined. It is an opportunity for faculty and graduate students to present their research and to hear about other inequality-related work from researchers on the off-campus. These talks are free and open to the public. For more information about the Inequality Seminar, contact Professor Sarah Bruch at sarah-bruch@uiowa.edu.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation, in order to participate in this program, please contact the Department of Sociology in advance at 335-2502.

