OUTLINE

I. The problem of “complexity”
   • defining the locations within a structure ("empty places")
   • units of analysis that fill locations
   • double temporality of class locations
   • asset-ownership and job-structures
   • emergence of new kinds of locations

Overall these can really be thought of as two sorts of complexities:
(1) Complexities in the ways peoples’ lives are linked to locations in the class structure.
(2) Complexities in the nature of the locations to which people’s lives are linked.

II. The Middle Class
1. The Middle Class as a double problem: a. Level of abstraction; b. Micro-Macro levels of analysis
2. Problematic cases: engineers, actors, teachers, athletes, white collar employees, civil servants, etc.
3. Many solutions.
   • Simple polarization
   • Segments of traditional classes
   • The new class
   • Contradictory class locations
4. Methodological issues in constructing a solution: Conceptual Constraints + Empirical Constraints
5. General Character of my proposals:
   version 1: a given location can be simultaneously in more than one class → contradictory class locations.
   version 2: a given location can be simultaneously exploiter and exploited w.r.t. distinct exploitation mechanisms.
6. Attractiveness of these strategies
7. Problems of the strategies
   a) Neither conceptual strategy attains the level of coherence that I hope for
   b) Contradictory Locations
   c) Multiple Exploitations
8. My current “solution” to the middle class
   • Return to the earlier contradictory locations idea for managers
   • Skill exploitation as a “privilege” that constitutes the basis for strata within classes
   • Capitalization of “skill rents” as a contradictory location
   • The game/rules/moves triplet as a new way of defining friends/allies/enemies within domains of class conflict

III. Other complexities
1. Mediated locations and Shadow class locations
2. Temporality of class locations:
   • Careers and intra-generational mobility
   • temporally indeterminate/undetermined class locations
   • capitalization of job-rents
3. Capital Ownership and the Class Character of Jobs
4. Unemployment/insecure employment/underemployment: a dualistic structure of employment relations
   • secure job becomes a kind of property right → a distinctive asset that divides non-capitalists; nature of the employment contract as a class division (Goldthorpe)
   • Underclass vs working class as a class divide
   • the precariat
5. The State: how should state employees be understood?
6. Global Classes? The North/South divide as a class divide