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# Seminar serie problem solving sociology Joint with Laboratorio di Analisi Sociologica “Nicola Negri” (CPS Department)”

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

14:00-17:00, Classroom 2

**Daniel Little**

**University of Michigan-Dearborn**

## Rethinking Analytical Sociology

This seminar draws on Daniel Little’s *Rethinking Analytical Sociology* book (Edward Elgar, 2025) to examine the promises and limitations of analytical sociology as a research framework in the social sciences. The presentation outlines the core methods and assumptions of the approach, while engaging critically with the theoretical boundaries that constrain its generality — particularly its reliance on narrow conceptions of methodological individualism and actor models.

The discussion highlights empirical domains where analytical sociology has demonstrated notable success, including public health, network analysis, and political science, before turning to cases that challenge its current framework. These cases are used to argue that a broader theoretical engagement — one that incorporates insights from adjacent areas of contemporary sociology — can substantially enrich analytical approaches without abandoning their explanatory rigor.

This argument is relevant to scholars and students across sociology, political science, public health, and public policy who seek a methodologically sophisticated yet reflexive approach to the study of social phenomena.

**Discussant: Davide Barrera** and **Federico Bianchi**



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