This assignment asks you to explore the public relevance of sociology in today’s world by becoming familiar with a particular application of sociological research. According to Ritzer, public sociology is sociological work that addresses “a variety of local, national and global groups,” “most of which are outside the academy” (Ritzer, 2015: 22).

**Exploring Public Sociology**

1. Explore the website called [Public Sociology Live](http://isapublicsociology.wordpress.com/) [http://isapublicsociology.wordpress.com/] .Begin your quest with the summary lecture by Michael Burawoy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJgWAcOctCQ#t=386>  
   You can choose from one of the international sociologists listed on the website or you may propose another public sociologist:  
   - Manuel Castells  
   - Nandani Sundar  
   - Cesar Rodriguez-Garavito  
   - Ramon Flecha and Marta Soler (\*NOTE: most of their articles appear in Spanish)  
   - Walden Bello  
   - Karl Von Holdt  
   - Sari Hanafi  
   - Michael Wieviorka  
   - Frances Fox Piven
2. Conduct library research about your chosen example to understand this public sociologists’ contribution to the discipline of sociology, and his or her efforts to bring these insights into the public domain. Keep a record of the places that you search and the search terms you use – what worked and what did not work (this will be included at the end of your paper). Start your search using the links on the Public Sociology Live web page. Select information from both scholarly journals and other reliable sources of information[[1]](#endnote-1). Investigate the following questions as you conduct library research:

* Describe the public work of this sociologist.
* What sociological concepts and theories does s/he use to illustrate their work?
* To whom is this sociologist talking (their public)? Locate any press coverage that enables you to assess how this work was received.

1. Write a 1000-1500 word research report analyzing your case of public sociology, responding to the above questions, and discussing the potential for public sociology to make important contributions for positive social change. Include a description of your search process as an appendix to the paper. Be sure to cite your sources properly, using the ASA format in the text of your report as well as to generate a list of works cited[[2]](#endnote-2).

**Evaluation Criteria**

**SOC 131 Principles of Sociology  
Exploring Public Sociology**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Public sociologist profiled \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ Excellent work [90 -100 points]**

* Includes a focused, detailed description of this example of public sociology.
* Applies multiple sociological concepts and theories from text accurately
* Discusses how these sociological ideas were shared with the broader public
* Includes a detailed record of the search process (terms, results)
* Cites sources properly, using the ASA format.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ Good work [80 – 90 points]**

* Describes of this example of public sociology.
* Applies sociological concepts and theories from text accurately.
* Mentions potential impact from this sociological knowledge.
* Cites sources properly, using the ASA format.

**\_\_\_\_ Acceptable work [70 – 80 points]**

* Description of this example of public sociology would be strengthened by additional detail.
* Identifying sociological concepts and theories would strengthen the essay
* Impacts of sociological knowledge is unclear
* Cites sources properly, using the ASA format.

**\_\_\_\_\_ Try Again [65 points]**

1. Sources of information can include: (1) materials written by the public sociologists themselves, both in scholarly outlets and the popular media including personal websites or blogs; (2) journal articles citing the work of your public sociologist (you can find articles through our library’s electronic databases, see <http://marymount.libguides.com/sociology>); and (3) academic books contained in the WRLC collections. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. See <http://www.asanet.org/documents/teaching/pdfs/Quick_Tips_for_ASA_Style.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)