Sociological Methodology: Interpreting Changing Cultures

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Assignment

### *Developmental Readings*

Create Developmental Readings from seminal sources and scholarly peer-reviewed

journal articles. Review Assignment #3, the course essential elements, assigned readings, and recommended readings to identify selections of books and scholarly articles to identify and select developmental reading sources and entries.

a. Refer to the "Student Guide to Developmental Readings" in the General

Helps folder for updated information on sample comments, the grading rubric,

and key definitions related to developmental readings.

**Source One:** Rovner, M. (2020). [*Supernatural business: A better plan*](https://www.amazon.com/Supernatural-Business-Better-Mike-Rovner/dp/1943361614). Oklahoma:

Insight International, Inc.

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**  “If God can do all this through… me… He can do it for anyone” (p 170).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Methods for Christian Social Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** Prayer and listening to God are key components of Mike Rovner’s book. I consider it as methods for Christian Social Change because they are powerful tools Christians use to change themselves and the world around them.

**Contextualization:**  Prayer and listening for God are simple steps to living a Christian life, but it isn’t always easy. Others get in the way. We get in the way too. It also takes practice to pray and to hear from God. These are two means to an end, the end of a closer relationship with Jesus. This is imperative for students going to college because when they stop praying and stop listening… deconversion happens.

Teaching students to make these two actions habits gives them practice and hopefully God shows them the power of prayer and listening. Incorporating this into the career ministry will train them to do both. As they encounter tough times, they will learn to rely on prayer and to listen for God’s discernment. They will go to college better equipped to handle the stress and challenges that arise.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “We’ve always tried to bring people to the next level. We do that by coaching and mentoring” (p 99).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Methods for Christian Social Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote is a part of BAM, is a part of servant leadership, and is a fundamental part of biblical principles for business and life. We are to help others, not just the orphaned and widowed. Greed and Pride are sin that everyone wrestles with. Some more than others. Overcoming both is another way to impact social change as a Christian.

**Contextualization:** Equipping others to be servant leaders and change makers is important so they can be used by God. Often bosses withhold because they are threatened by the thought of someone lower in rank surpassing them. That is not how Jesus wants us to serve.

**Source Two:** Otilia, S. B., Lustrea, A., Sava, S., & Bobic, O. (2024). Training Teachers for the Career

Guidance of High School Students.[*Education Sciences*](https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci14030289)*, 14*(3), 289-307.

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “Incorporating narrative exercises and goal setting activities that allow for self-reflection has been identified as a critical component within comprehensive strategies for reaching more positive results. Equipping students with the materials they need to make informed decisions about what decent employment entails, encouraging professional curiosity to explore and discover viable options, and shaping adequate representations of the occupational environment are all critical prerequisites for career development” (p291).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Sociological Framework for Cultural Analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote provides information on how best to establish a career development program. It includes practical advice, as well as social and cultural components. Self-reflection is also important because collectively it provides a holistic approach to career searching.

**Contextualization:** Practical advice is important when developing a career plan. Self-reflection and exploration are helpful in understanding what job and tasks we like (or don’t); and exploration helps us learn about new careers. Together, it builds a foundation that ensures a better career journey than traditional high school guidance counseling.

Unfortunately, there is a great need for a new career paradigm even today. Recently, I coached a student that withdrew from a prestigious college. His road was long and windy, just like Paul McCartney’s song. Thankfully, he was referred to me and we completed his assessment and got him connected with Biola. His high school guidance counselor suggested he go into computer science because he was good at math. Sadly, there is more to that field than just being good at math. My client’s report indicated health sciences was his best fit. That one suggestion sent my client on a path that impacted his mental health and deterred his future four years. This is why my new career paradigm is necessary and will make a difference.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Training teachers for career-guidance activities is a solution for empowering students in a rapidly changing society. Similar training initiatives have been found to be beneficial for developing the career-guidance competencies of teachers as career-guidance advisors, provided they receive initial training, information, and preparation for this role” (p. 292).

**Essential Element:** Methods for Christian Social Change is the Essential Element.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The implications of this additive quote can apply to the church, as well as secular teachers. It supports the thought that training Youth leaders in biblical career development can make a difference.

**Contextualization:** The proposed new career paradigm is not just for secular schools. While it could be secular facing (i.e., appears to be non-religious) it is very relevant for the church and Christian schools.

The goal is to plant career ministries across the nation to reduce deconversion on college campuses. To achieve this goal we must equip students to be disciples. First, they discover the career they were designed for. Second, to see their career as a mission field. Lastly, coach them to disciple their peers in a social and culturally sensitive way.

**Source Three:** Mitchell, Booker. (2021). *A Multiple Case Study: Church Leaders and Project Management.* [Degree: Liberty University](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/doctoral/3211/).

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**  “This qualitative research project allowed the researcher to reflect on various aspects of the Christian worldview in the workplace. During these reflections, personal and professional growth opportunities were identified” (p. 180).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Interdisciplinary Approach to Social Analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The additive quote supports the need for church leaders and the administration to work together as parts of the body working together. The Pastor can’t and shouldn’t be expected to do it all. Instead the congregation should know their spiritual and vocational gifts in order to volunteer their services to help the church operate in a more holistic manner.

**Contextualization:** Thousands attend church every Sunday, but what percentage volunteer their gifts and talents to the church? to the ministries? It is important that churches adopt a career ministry to teach biblical principles of work and to motivate everyone in the congregation to give of their time.

Career ministries will help the church as much as it will help the congregation discover their calling, embrace the idea that their job is their mission field and the importance of volunteering at church.

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The emergent themes developed from the participants’ responses align with concepts of servant leadership theory. One thought from the study is the importance of developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of attendees to complete unique events or special operations” (p. 147).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Interdisciplinary Approach to Social Analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quoteintroduces the concept of Servant Leadership which is also an important aspect of the church and something we should teach within the career development paradigm/ministry. Servant Leadership isn’t just for the church, but is a concept we can use in the workplace as well.

**Contextualization:** If we teach Christians to be servant leaders they will hopefully cling to Christian view of work instead of the secular one to work for money and material possessions. Including this as part of the career development paradigm/ministry could be transformational.

Christians who embrace a servant leadership model of work will better serve the Kingdom because their mind and heart are serving instead of just going to a job. This will keep their foundation firmly rooted in Christ in order to be salt and light instead of a statistic.

**Source Four:** Ma, E. Z. (2024). *Business as Ministry in the US Rural Midwest for the Common Good* ([Order No. 31145168](https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/business-as-ministry-us-rural-midwest-common-good/docview/3031708223/se-2)). Available from Publicly Available Content Database. (3031708223).

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “the business as ministry model, may aid Christian entrepreneurs in comprehending and managing a business as a Christian ministry” (p. 26).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Methods for Christian Social Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**  This additive quote brings the basic biblical principles to the forefront of everyone’s career, not just the entrepreneur. It is the foundation of work just as the ten commandments are the foundation for Christianity.

**Contextualization:** I believe a business as ministry model expands beyond entrepreneurs and can be applied to all Christian businesses, just as Christian biblical principles can be applied to every Christian’s career. If we teach the biblical principles of work and finance to every Christian growing up in the church, it will serve as a firm foundation for work and money management.

Just as raising a child is a parent’s job, it is the church's job to train in money management and vocational calling. If Christians see business and work as a Christian ministry, servant leadership and biblical principles will prevail. Christians will be equipped to see their career as a mission field and equipping students to see college in this way too. They will know their calling, which is one less stressful life decision to be concerned with. The confidence gained adds to that foundation resulting in fewer deconversions and hopefully more Christ conversions!

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**They also experienced and perceived that wisdom, values, culture, and ministry are all components of spiritual capital that represent the spiritual aspects of the common good in their business as ministry. They also experienced and perceived that relationships, trust, goodwill, and cooperation all contribute to social capital, which can be categorized as the social aspects of the common good in their business as ministry” (p. 165).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Faith-Integrated Sociological Analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote shows the power of biblical principles in business and how transformational business as mission can be!

**Contextualization:** The use of business as mission (BAM) is so different than the unethical business many people encounter that it is refreshing. Teaching Christians to see their career as a ministry opportunity could result in real change in many areas. Faith at Work is a movement that applies BAM to the business itself to support staff, as well as the community.

Again, it goes back to teaching this through a career ministry within the church. There is a need for the church to be a catalyst for social change. Christians should be working within secular companies applying BAM principles. Similarly, Christian companies should be organizing to be catalysts for social change. BAM is becoming more mainstream, but until more churches step up and dig in to this, God can’t open the door and bless more people. This is why I hope to develop a new career paradigm that is planted in the church through career ministries.

**Source Five:** Johnson, C.N. (2022). *Business As Mission, In A Nutshell - All the Basics: The Essential Road Map for Christian Entrepreneurs.* [*https://a.co/d/grUMpMW*](https://a.co/d/grUMpMW)

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “...a meaningful measurable program of Spiritual Self-Audit… that BAMers and missionaries can engage in” (p 448).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Interdisciplinary Approach to Social Analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** A spiritual self-audit is essential for traditional overseas BAM’ers that launched businesses in developing and closed nations. It is the “missionary” part of BAM that needs more help.

**Contextualization:** Traditional missionaries go overseas to serve, but they do not include a vocational assessment to ensure that assignments match vocational and spiritual gifts. When mismatches occur assignments are either not completed or missionaries do not return; and there is a need for long term missionaries.

The self-audit and vocational assessment could collectively make a significant difference in reducing mismatches. Reducing mismatches could improve the outcomes and enable recruitment of more long term missionaries.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “A BAM company has a dual mandate: A Business Mandate,... and a Mission Mandate” (p. 140).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Faith-Integrated Sociological Analysis.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports Faith-Integrated Sociological Analysis in that it allows us to look at both business and mission for a business. Just as we can look at the impact of business and mission on the company, owner and staff, we can also look at the impact of on the community from a business and a mission perspective.

**Contextualization:** As a result, BAM is much more difficult than a traditional business, but I would argue that it is also much more fulfilling. It is important to recognize both perspectives because while it is more work, the impact of the work from a faith-integrated sociological analysis perspective also bears more fruit.

Again, going back to the impact of BAM on the community is multi-faceted. The community is lifted up, and perhaps social problems are resolved or improved. The church is equipping more disciples and may see an increase in tithe, participation, and attendance. God blesses the community and businesses flourish. People are happier, families are better off, and churches grow.

Works Cited

Bersan, O., Lustrea, A., Sava, S., & Bobic, O. (2024). *Training teachers for the career guidance of high*

*school students*. [Education Sciences](https://www.mdpi.com/2227-7102/14/3/289), *14*(3), 289-307.

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