Session: Economy and Social Theory

**Marx, Durkheim and Weber on Market Society.**

**David Denham**

**Senior Lecturer in Sociology**

**University of Wolverhampton**

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**Abstract**

The paper argues that the idea of ‘market society’, and the impact of the penetration of market forces, on social life have been neglected within sociology compared to other theories of recent social change. The works of Marx, Durkheim and Weber, in relation to market societies, are outlined in order to demonstrate how a critical analysis of market societies was a key feature of their work. Key critical perspectives, within classical sociological theory are identified such as the nature of commodification & the reification of the market, anomie and the irrationality of rationality. Some studies, which focus on market relations and the social impact of marketization are identified within a broader argument which refers to a general neglect of market society as a central feature of contemporary social life.