Between the Global and the Local
Geometric Analysis of American Sociology

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The United States is one of the main areas of global sociological production. Its journals remain the most cited and US universities attract the best students and fellow researchers from all over the world. However, the social conditions of sociological production in America are still misrecognized. The paper, using geometric data analysis, reveals the internal structure of the field of US sociology along with external dependencies and relations with other scientific fields (especially European). In this way, detailed reconstruction of latent multidimensional structures explains American sociologists’ topic choices, methodological orientations and research strategies. Furthermore, the study shows the impact of the State, economy and international relations (e.g. scientific global mobility) on purely scientific interests.

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