

SOCIAL CLASSES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Sciences Po, 28 rue des Saints-Pères, Paris 7e, Room Caquot

Do we still live in class societies? Is the classical approach to social inequalities, political divisions and lifestyles still relevant?

This conference, organized over two full days at the initiative of the Observatoire sociologique du changement (OSC), calls into question the current concept of “class” in the contemporary social sciences. It will bring together specialists from a wide range of thematics, theoretical and methodological backgrounds. With a broad international lens, the conference will draw on the comparison of various national contexts (including United States, United Kingdom, India, Brazil, Argentina).

Throughout the contributions, we will examine the explanatory power of the different existing theoretical models and their renewal, in contexts that are often disconnected from the European and North-American framework in which these theories were initiated and developed in the 19th and 20th centuries. Attention will be paid both to the generating mechanisms of class relations and their inclusion in various domains of social life: politics, lifestyles, and geography, especially within urban areas and large metropolises. The conference will focus specifically on the relationships between changes in the wealth distribution (the soar in high-income, the increased importance of heritage) and contemporary transformations of class boundaries and class relations. Emphasis will also be placed on the articulation between the division of society into classes and social mobility trajectories. Two cross-cutting questions will be central to these inquiries: what sort of theories of social class are relevant for the 21st century? How can micro (ethnographic, qualitative) and macro-social (quantitative, structural) approaches be used in a complementary way?

Thursday 29 June 2017

09:00 - 09:30 Welcome coffee

09:30 - 10:00 Welcome address by **FRÉDÉRIC MION**, President of Sciences Po
Introduction by **Philippe COULANGEON** and **Marco OBERTI**

Are social classes still relevant (for analysing social change)?

10:00 - 10:45 **Geoffrey WODTKE**, Assistant Professor, Toronto University, Canada
Classes in the 21st Century: Death, Decomposition, or Resurrection?

10:45 - 11:30 **Daniel OESCH**, Professeur associé, Université de Lausanne, Suisse
The new tripolar space and class voting in Western Europe

11:30 - 12:15 **Louis CHAUVEL**, Professeur de sociologie, Université du Luxembourg
« Repatrimonialization »: the new role of wealth in the definition of social class systems

12:15 - 14:15 Lunch

Social mobility

14:15 - 15:00 **Carlos Antonio COSTA RIBEIRO**, Professeur de sociologie, Université d'Etat de Rio de Janeiro, (UERJ), Brésil
Class mobility in Brazil: 1973 to 2014

15:00 - 15:45 **Pedro LOPEZ-ROLDAN**, Associate Professor, Université autonome de Barcelone (UAB), Espagne
Sandra FACHELLI, Université autonome de Barcelone (UAB), Espagne

Stratification and social mobility compared: Argentina and Spain

15:45 - 16:30 **Louis-André VALLET**, Directeur de recherche CNRS, Sciences Po OSC
Intergenerational mobility and social fluidity in France over birth cohorts and across age: the role of education

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 - 17:45 **Yasmine SIBLOT**, Professeure des universités en sociologie, Université Paris 8
Marie CARTIER, Maître de conférences, Université de Nantes
The France of the " Little-Middles ": exploring the fragile frontier between the working and middles

19:30 Dinner Le Procope (limited to Speakers)

Friday 30 June 2017

09:00 - 09:30 Welcome Coffee

Social classes and lifestyles

09:30 - 10:15 **Agnès VAN ZANTEN**, Directrice de recherche CNRS, Sciences Po OSC
Ylva BERGSTRÖM, Associate Professor, Université d'Uppsala, Sweden
Mikael PALME, Senior Lecturer, Université d'Uppsala, Sweden
The educational practices of upper-class families in France and Sweden

10:15 - 11:00 **Johannes HJELLBREKKE**, Professor, University of Bergen, Norway
Social class and social capital

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

Social classes in India and China

11:30 - 12:15 **Matthieu FERRY**, ENS Cachan
Jules NAUDET, Chargé de recherche CNRS, Centre d'Études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (CEIAS, EHESS)
Olivier ROUEFF, Chargé de recherche CNRS, Université Paris 8
In search of the Indian social space. A multidimensional portrait of social stratification in India

12:15 - 13:00 **Jean-Louis ROCCA**, Professeur, Sciences Po, CERI
Production and reproduction of social classes in market capitalist China

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

Social classes in big metropolis: Paris and London

14:30 - 15:15 **Edmond PRETECEILLE**, Directeur de recherche émérite CNRS, Sciences Po OSC
The urban dimension of social class transformations in the Paris metropolis

15:15 - 16:00 **Mike SAVAGE**, Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science
Social class and inequality in contemporary London

16:00 - 16:30 Closing address

Scientific and Organization Committee

Philippe COULANGEON, directeur de recherche au CNRS, Sciences Po OSC
Marco OBERTI, professeur des universités, directeur de l'OSC
Bernard CORMINBOEUF, ingénieur de recherche CNRS, chargé de la communication de l'OSC
Marie FERRAZZINI, secrétaire générale de l'OSC
Sylvie LESUR, assistante de direction de l'OSC

Registration required: bernard.corminboeuf@sciencespo.fr