

Call for Applications

Historical Perspectives on Neoliberalism – The Role of the Future in Economic and Political Sociology

Joint PhD Seminars of Sciences Po, Paris, and the MPIfG, Cologne
in May and September 2018 in Paris and Cologne

Instructors

Jenny Andersson, Jens Beckert, Ariane Leendertz, Marcin Serafin

The Max Planck Sciences Po Center on Coping with Instability in Market Societies (MaxPo) and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG) are welcoming proposals from PhD students to participate in two PhD seminars to be held during 2018 in Paris and Cologne.

Taught in English by Professors Jenny Andersson (MaxPo/Sciences Po), Jens Beckert (MPIfG), Ariane Leendertz (MPIfG), and Marcin Serafin (Max Planck Partner Group for the Sociology of Economic Life, Warsaw) with additional invited guest speakers, the seminars are open to graduate students currently enrolled in a PhD program at a French or German university. Preference is given to students from Sciences Po, the IMPRS-SPCE, and their cooperation partners. Participating students must have prior knowledge of the contemporary history of recent economic transitions or the fields of economic sociology, political economy, or adjacent fields (such as economic or contemporary history and economic or social anthropology). It is possible to apply to one or both seminars.

Seminar 1

Historical Perspectives on Neoliberalism: Political Economy and Social History since 1970

May 16–18, 2018 | MaxPo, Paris

Seminar 1 aims to familiarize students with the literature on neoliberalism in a range of fields from political science and political sociology to economic and social history. It also aims to shift boundaries of thinking around neoliberalism from a Western problem to a wider governmental and global project. In the seminar, students will gain an understanding of the cultural expressions of forms of marketization, the use of market devices as forms of both social mobility and social control, and the shifting relationship between political and economic elites in different contexts since 1970.

Faculty

Jenny Andersson, MaxPo/Sciences Po; Ariane Leendertz, MPIfG

Senior speakers:

David Priestland, University of Oxford; Philipp Ther, Institute for East European History, University of Vienna

Seminar 2

The Role of the Future in Economic and Political Sociology: Between Stabilizing Expectations and Extending Crises

September 24–26, 2018 | MPIfG, Cologne

Seminar 2 explores the recent interest in the future in the social sciences. Recent work in economic sociology has brought out the importance of actors' expectations, showing the influence of narratives and fictions on future developments as ways of embedding economic activity in stories and images of envisioned future capitalist development. Other strands of literature in economic geography, anthropology, and history have pinpointed the origins and use of tools of future crafting, such as forecasts and scenarios, as instruments of market making and as contributors to the crafting of economic interests over time. The seminar aims to familiarize PhD students with this emerging research agenda.

Faculty

Jens Beckert, MPIfG; Jenny Andersson, MaxPo/Sciences Po; Marcin Serafin, Max Planck Partner Group for the Sociology of Economic Life

Senior speakers

Christina Garsten, Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University; N.N.

Requirements

Students are expected to complete the required reading in advance (about 10 research articles or book chapters and 6 summaries of PhD theses in progress). The seminars include lectures by the organizing professors and invited guest speakers. The focus is on classroom discussions. Students

more advanced in their PhD project will have an opportunity to present their research, which will be commented on by two discussants.

A maximum of 20 students will be admitted to each seminar. A detailed syllabus will be provided to accepted students. Students who successfully complete the course will receive 3 ECTS credits for each of the seminars.

The seminars are supported by the Franco-German University. Costs for transportation and accommodation will be covered by the organizers. Cost for food will be covered by participants individually. No specific fees for the course will be charged. Hotel reservations will be made through the organizers.

Full papers or PhD chapters must be sent one month before each workshop.

Application

If you would like to apply for the seminar, please submit a letter of motivation (max. 300 words) and a short description of your PhD project (max. 300 words).

For **Seminar 1**, we welcome applications until the deadline of **March 15, 2018**. * Notifications of acceptance will be given no later than March 31.

For **Seminar 2**, we welcome applications until the deadline of **May 31, 2018**. ** Notification of acceptance will be given no later than June 15.

Applicants who would like to participate in **both** seminars must apply for both of them no later than **March 31, 2018**. ***

* *Please send your application for Seminar 1 to:*
Allison Rovny, MaxPo | allison.rovny@sciencespo.fr

** *Please send your application for Seminar 2 to*
Susanne Berger, MPIfG | berger@mpifg.de

*** *If you would like to apply to both seminars, please send your application materials to both Allison Rovny and Susanne Berger as listed above.*

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