The OSC: a research centre in sociology that adopts a comparative perspective

The centre was established by Henri Mendras in 1988 and has been headed by Marco Oberti since 2014. The OSC studies the macro-dynamics of contemporary societies from a comparative perspective. Quantitative and qualitative methodologies are used, depending on the different levels of observation: local, regional, national or international.

Four main areas of concentration

- Social Stratification and the Transformation of Inequality
- Inequality in Cities and Urban Areas
- Lifestyles: Social Rhythms, Norms, the Environment
- Educational Policies and Dynamics

Research topics on current social issues

- Social classes, Segregation, Mobility
- Employment, Wages, Labour markets
- Immigration, Ethno-racial Inequality
- Cities
- Culture, Consumption, the Environnement
- Family, Gender, Life cycles
- Education

Sixteen Permanent Researchers present in both the French and International academic communities

- Alain Chenu
- Philippe Coulangeon
- Marta Dominguez-Folguras
- Marie Duru-Bellat
- Roberto Galbiati
- Olivier Godechot
- Nicolas Herpin
- Hugues Lagrange
- Laurent Lesnard
- Marco Oberti
- Edmond Prêteceille
- Ettore Recchi
- Anne Revillard
- Mirna Safi
- Louis-André Vallet
- Agnès van Zanten

An active role in the Doctoral training program

The OSC is one of the host centres for Science Po’s Doctoral program in sociology. It is renowned for its commitment to research training and has had the same aim since it was first created 20 years ago: to train high level sociologists capable of analyzing transformations in contemporary societies.

Twenty-three PhD students in 2013-2014

PhD students are fully integrated into the research team, and are actively involved in various faculty projects. They all receive funding and are provided with strong support from the centre and its team of researchers and support staff.

Head of doctoral studies at OSC: Louis-André Vallet

Sciences Po Doctoral School
http://ecoledoctorale.sciencespo.fr/