Economic Sociology

Introduction & Objectives

This seminar focuses on the contributions of the "New Economic Sociology". Building on work by original and current authors in this area, the seminar deals with some of the most significant contributions in the field of economic sociology. The seminar provides an overview of the classical foundations by focusing on labour markets, of the sociology of work and occupations, in which we especially emphasize different aspects of inequality. The course, then, moves on to a different level of analysis, examining markets and organizations. Overall, the seminar’s objective is to present current work and put this work in perspective with the broader debates in economic sociology.

Competences

General
CG3: Conduct a critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas with the objective to produce general principles applicable to business situations.
CG4: Profound understanding and appreciation of the importance of the human factor within an organizational framework.

Specific
CE3: Organization, planning and implementation of a research project related to social sciences.
CE7: Ability to articulate research questions that could extend our understanding of the field, and design a research program to answer them.
CE17: Ability to critically establish the relevance and significance of the results obtained with respect to the proposed objectives, and prepare conclusions within the framework of current scientific knowledge on the topic in question.
CE18: Develop a scientific / technical report or research work with the objective to inform the scientific community on the contribution of the research conducted, making use of adequate information technology for both acquisition and dissemination of research results.

Methodology

All students are expected to attend all meetings having carefully read the material and prepared to discuss the readings. This course is a seminar, and you should participate actively. The intellectual returns to this course rely heavily on student participation. It is not a lecture course. Unlike undergraduate courses, where the purpose is (often) to master a definitive set of "facts," the purpose of this course is to develop your independent thinking skills. As such, I will lecture as little as possible. Instead, I intend to moderate an active discussion centred on key questions from the readings. This format mimics in miniature what you will be doing as academics, actively engaging in debate with colleagues. Do not shy away from points. Do push arguments. Do not accept two logically inconsistent points as "equally valid perspectives." Do seek to understand the basic assumptions that drive different conclusions. We seek to develop a deeper understanding of social theory by confronting alternative positions. For this format to work, you must be active participants.
A standard paper discussion session proceeds as follows. Each of you will be assigned to a specific paper on which you will lead the class discussion (approx. 15-20 minutes per paper). A critical summary of the assigned paper is required which should include:

A/: Description of the article (50% of your review)

- Purpose or core research question developed by the article
- Main theoretical arguments
- Methods, measures, analysis
- Main results
- Contributions to the literature

B/ Critical comments on the prior points (50% of your review)

Note that you will have to prepare in details one article for each session, and that you will have to prepare at least three .ppt presentations throughout the class, where you will summarize the points mentioned above about what you have learned from the article (6 to 8 slides maximum). You will deliver the .ppt presentation summarizing the overall contribution of the article and focus on the critique of its different sections. The audience will react to these presentations, much like a discussant and audience would at a research seminar.

Note, that once you have delivered the three presentations, you are still required to have prepared in details one article for each session, only the format will differ (on a side note, when you are presenting a paper, feel free to use the board in the classroom to write the main arguments/ results, draw the main relationships between the constructs, etc. ). I encourage you to coordinate amongst yourselves prior to each class, so that we have a “balanced” number of .ppt presentations during the seminar and we have at least one .ppt presentation per session for sessions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Furthermore, one student will be assigned as the integrator for that session, tying together all reading in that session and placing them in the context of the field. This student will prepare an integration scheme for all the papers, to be presented at the end of the session (10-15 minutes maximum). The integration scheme should include how these papers are linked to each other and how they differ, what are the main questions pursued in these papers, what answers these papers provide to these questions, and what future research are or can be pointed out by these papers.

When it comes to the final paper, the outcome of the seminar should be a short but innovative conceptual and/or empirical work closely based on the seminar’s concepts. The paper should be a 10-15 (12-point readable font; double-spaced) page term paper. As a group, we will discuss and provide feedback on the initial idea during the course. The refined proposals will be presented and discussed in the last session of the course. The final proposal is due on May 6.

**Course Evaluation**

Your course grade will be calculated as follow:

- Class participation (50%)
- Term paper (50%)
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<th>Sociology of work and occupations</th>
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**Recommended:**


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**5 01/03/2022: 9h30-12h15**

**Market emergence**

Prof. Romain Boulongne


**Recommended:**


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**6 03/03/2022: 14h30-17h15**

**Organizational identity**

Prof. Romain Boulongne

### Additional assignment:
Students will be randomly assigned to small groups. Each group will discuss and prepare a set of slides summarizing a set of issues gleaned from the readings of the past sessions.


**Recommended:**

### Placement and the question of (category) membership
**Prof. Romain Boulongne**

Additional assignment: Each of you will provide an informal introduction into her/his idea for the term paper. As a group, we will then discuss the idea and offer feedback.


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<td></td>
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<td>Saverio D. Favaron, Giada Di Stefano and Rodolphe Durand (2021), “Michelin is coming to town: Organizational responses to status shocks.” Forthcoming at Management Science</td>
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Each of you will present her/ his refined term paper to the class in 5-10 slides (15-20 minutes maximum). As a group, we will then provide feedback which should ensure the best possible outcome for the final proposal due on May 6.