

## **Engaged Social Sciences**

**By Dr Kamil Wielecki:**

Students: Wojciech Cendrowski; Piotr Chmielewski; Kornelia Kasperkiewicz; Maria Piekarska

Faculty: Prof. Dorota Ławecka; Prof. Piotr Matczak; Prof. Jan Kieniewicz; Prof. Shoshana Ronen; Dr Franciszek Stępniewski; Dr hab. Robert Sucharski; Prof. Jolanta Sujecka; Dr Kamil Wielecki (Head of the Section)

### **Description**

The seminar will investigate wide scope of relationships between human groups and environment they live in. Various social sciences have discussed those relationships in manifold ways, however, a one unifying characteristics seemed to be a harsh distinction between subject and object of research. This distinction was a part of a positivist paradigm of social sciences in which “social” was less important than “sciences”. In other words, social sciences were viewed as a kind of natural sciences and in consequence they were thought to obligatory follow approach of the latter, including rigid oppositions between participant and observer, theory and experience, micro and macro, and finally, the boundaries between scientific disciplines. In the seminar, in turn, we will try to bring those oppositions into dialogue. We will consider principles of reflexive social sciences in which researchers get into a dynamic relationship with reality they investigate – be it other people, living organisms, cultural artefacts or non-organic nature.

### **Goals**

The seminar will aim at supporting PhD Students in broadening their research perspectives and coining by them theoretical tools to develop their own projects. This will be done through close cooperation between all participants, common readings, presentations and discussions. Moreover, the goal of the seminar is to let the Students exercise their skills in formulating research problems and developing an interdisciplinary workshop to approach them. Finally, the Students will train their skills in organization and moderation of scholar events.

### **Schedule and requirements for the PhD Students**

There will be 6 seminar meetings, each of them 3-class-hours-long. The meetings will be held in English and Polish, depending on the topic and presentation discussed.

The meetings will take place on: December 4, January 29, February 26, March 19, April 16, and May 14 between 9:30 - 11:45 am.

The PhD Students are strictly obliged to participate in every seminar meeting.

The first two meetings will be organized by Professors, the next four ones by PhD Students.

Each PhD Student will prepare one seminar on a research problem of his/her choice. The proposed problem should meet following criteria:

- It should be sound in theoretical or methodological terms
- It may be connected with one’s research and dissertation. At the same time, though, it should go beyond of it and be related to broader issues than particular phenomena under one’s study
- In opinion of the proposal giver, it should be pertinent to other members of the seminar
- It should be interdisciplinary, i.e. in both the way one should take and possibly solve it, Moreover, it should bridge rigidly taken academic disciplines.

In order to prepare a seminar, the PhD Student invites one partner among the Professors (not necessarily his/her PhD Advisor) and also one partner from the fellow Students as an advisor. Each Student will thus organize one seminar meeting and will serve once as an advisor to their fellows. Two weeks before a particular meeting, the Student should distribute preparatory materials that include formulation of the problem, a few claims, and proposed readings. What is more, during the meeting, the Student should provide empirical studies that illustrate, verify, falsify, contradict, challenge, etc., the proposed problem.

### **Assessment**

- Preparation and active participation in the seminar meetings
- Organization of one seminar meeting (incl. distribution of preparatory materials on time, quality of presentation, intellectual input, moderation of the event, etc.).

### **Organization of seminar meetings**

- December 4: Dr. Kamil Wielecki
- January 29: Dr. Franciszek Stępniewski
- February 26: Maria Piekarska
- March 19: tbc
- April 16: tbc
- May 14: tbc