

Nature – Culture PhD Program

Engaged Social Sciences

Syllabus of sectional seminar 2019/20

Members

Wojciech Cendrowski
Piotr Chmielewski
Kornelia Kasperkiewicz
Prof. Jan Kieniewicz
Prof. Piotr Matczak
Maria Piekarska
Prof. Shoshana Ronen
Dr. Franciszek Stępniewski
Prof. Robert Sucharski
Prof. Jolanta Sujecka
Dr. Kamil Wielecki

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 uniting 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 relationships with reality they investigate – be it other people, living organisms, cultural artefacts or non-organic nature.

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. An important aspect of our work will be to prepare Students to defences of their Dissertation Proposals in June 2020.

There will be 7 seminar meetings, each of them 4 class hours long (3 clock hours). The meetings will be held in English and Polish, depending on the topic and thesis discussed.

Requirements for PhD Students

- **Attendance.** Students are strictly obliged to participate in every seminar meeting, in person or via Skype.
- **Preparing and defending a draft of Dissertation Proposal.** By May 22, each Student will submit a draft of his/her Dissertation Proposal to all members of the Sectional Seminar. Next, he/she will defend in a mock-defense in the seminar on June 5.
- **Peer-review.** Before the mock-defenses, by May 29, each PhD student will write one peer-review of his/her fellow student draft of Dissertation Proposal. Then he/she will shortly present his/her review during the mock-defenses on June 5.

Assessment

- Preparation and active participation in the seminar meetings
- Fulfilling the tasks of the seminar on time (such as sending preparatory materials, submitting the draft of the Dissertation Proposal, writing a peer-review, etc.)
- Draft of the Dissertation Proposal and its mock-defense will be assessed by PhD Advisors and the Head of the section.

Schedule:

	When?	What?	Organized by:
1	January 10	Presentations of doctoral projects	Wojciech Cendrowski Piotr Chmielewski Kornelia Kasperkiewicz Maria Piekarska
2	January 24		Wojciech Cendrowski Kamil Wielecki
3	February 28		Maria Piekarska Kamil Wielecki
4	March 27		Kornelia Kasperkiewicz Franciszek Stepniowski
5	April 24		Piotr Chmielewski Piotr Matczak
6	May 15		
7	June 5	Mock-defenses of Dissertation Proposals	Wojciech Cendrowski Piotr Chmielewski Kornelia Kasperkiewicz Maria Piekarska

Literature:

Burawoy, Michael
2009 The Extended Case Method: Four Countries, Four Decades, Four Great Transformations, and One Theoretical Tradition. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Geertz, Clifford

1973 The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays. New York: Basic Books.

Hastrup, Kirsten

1987 Presenting the past: Reflections on myth and history. *Folk*, 29, 257–269.

1995 A Passage to Anthropology: Between Experience and Theory. London: Routledge.

Latour, Bruno

1993 We Have Never Been Modern. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

2005 Reassembling the social: an introduction to actor-network-theory. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Tuchańska, Barbara (red.)

1992 Między sensem a genami. Warszawa: PWN.

Wiegele, Thomas C. (ed.)

1982 Biology and the Social Sciences: An Emerging Revolution. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.