

## Courses taught in English in the Department of Sociology

The classes listed below can be taken by BA and MA students. Please refer to the course type information. Assessments and credit points differ according to study level.

You can clarify your participation and the type of assessment required **directly** with the lecturer during your first meeting of class at the University of Konstanz.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The following information may be subject to change. Please click on the title to get more information about the course.

### SUMMER SEMESTER2017

#### Care and Social Policy

**Course type:** BA Seminar      **ECTS:** 5/6/7

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorian Woods

**Description:** Care has been a neglected issue in welfare state research, although there are some current and interesting developments both in policy itself and in the research literature. Generally, this topic is gaining more attention, as aging populations and shifting demographics are challenging the status quo of how elderly care provision is organized. In the same vein, dilemmas for parents, who are balancing work and family, have become more acute so that the state faces challenges for how to help families organize the care of children. This class examines theories of care and social policy from a welfare state research perspective and analyses comparatively concrete policy examples in the area of care. We start with basic welfare state development theory and comparative social policy analysis. With that we take a second look at the “market, state and family mix” in terms of how previous authors have theoretically explained the economics of care and the role of the welfare state in covering social risk. Then we explore models of care, and analytical approaches to explain care work and work/life balance issues. In the second half of the class we examine specific policies around care: child/child care allowances, tax benefits for families, family leave, child care, and long-term care policy. Our discussions focus on these instruments with special consideration to gender, class, ethnicity and sexual orientation. By the end of the class, students should have deeper knowledge of particular policies and social problems in diverse welfare states as well as a good grasp of the theoretical approaches for analysing these policies. Readings, presentations and discussion will be in English.

#### **Literature:**

\*Castles, Francis G.; Leibfried, Stephan; Lewis, Jane; Obinger, Herbert; Pierson, Christopher, 2010: The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

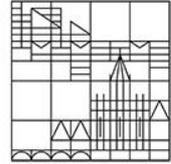
\*Robila, Mihaela (Ed.), 2014: Handbook of Family Policies across the Globe. New York, New York: Springer.

\*Saraceno, Chiara, Lewis, Jane, Leira, Arnlaug, 2012: Families and Family Policies. Volume one and two. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

\*Zimmerman, Shirley L., 1995, Understanding Family Policy. Theories and Applications. Second edition. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publishing.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

**Credit requirements:** A grade will be awarded to students who attend class regularly, prepare and organize a



presentation with discussion management (50%) and write an exam (50%). In some cases, a student may write a term paper instead of an exam.

## Gender and Social Inequality

**Course type:** BA Seminar      **ECTS:** 5/6/7

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Susanne Strauß

**Description:** We will study the shape and extent of gender inequality in 21st century advanced Western nations. The topic of gender inequality has been on the policy agenda for quite a while but despite this several authors and social actors are pessimistic about progress being made. Sociologists talk about an 'incomplete revolution' or a 'half-changed world'. In order to understand better what is happening, we will read the main texts on the different shapes and forms of gender inequality. We will look at what happens in the labour market and in households. Quite a bit of attention will be focused on social change and what happens with new cohorts entering the labour market. But this is not enough, in order to understand how gender inequality is shaped we also need to take a life course view and see at which life course stages gender inequality takes shape. Is that during the educational career, with entry in the labour market or when women become mothers? And how has social policy helped in reducing gendered forms of inequality. In order to gain a better insight in what policy set-ups work, a comparative perspective is taken in which we compare countries and their welfare systems.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

## Justice and Gender

**Course type:** BA Seminar      **ECTS:** 5/6/7

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorian Woods

**Description:** This seminar examines well-established concepts and theories of equality, justice and gender. A "canon" of Western justice theories will be examined: We will start with contract theories and read Thomas Hobbes following a feminist critique from Carol Pateman. Then we will examine John Rawls' veil of ignorance, Robert Nozick's libertarian views, Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum's capability approach as well as newer philosophical approaches from Nancy Fraser (redistribution and recognition) and Will Kymlicka (group rights). The theory of social rights from T.H. Marshall and a communitarian approach will also be examined. Susan Moller Okin's work and critique will accompany many of the texts.

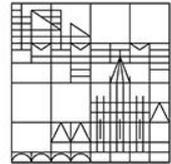
This class is meant as a survey of justice theories across different schools of thought with particular attention to the perspective of gender. We will consider contextual issues, such as labor market, aging, migration, poverty and environmental issues. In particular, we examine debates around private and public division of rights and responsibilities, care work and family as well as issues of intersectionality and post-colonialism. Learning goals of the class are to obtain an overview of the different approaches to justice and gender, to understand and to utilize the philosophical terms, to critically reflect on these terms and theories, and to apply these approaches to actual and concrete issues.

### **Literature:**

\*Fraser, Nancy (1997). From Redistribution to Recognition? Dilemmas of Justice in a "Postsocialist" Age. In: Justice Interruptus. Critical Reflections on the „Postsocialist“ Condition. Routledge, New York, London.

\*Kymlicka, Will (1995): Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights. Oxford: Oxford University Press, S.26-33, 108-30.

\*Nozick, Robert (1974): Anarchy, State and Utopia. New York: Basic Books



\*Okin, Susan Moller (1989): Justice, Gender and the Family. USA: Basic Books.

\*Pateman, Carol (2006): The Fraternal Social Contract. In: Goodin, Robert E. and Pettit, Philip. Contemporary Political Philosophy. 2d. Edition. An Anthology. Blackwell Publishing Ltd, S. 73-87.

\*Rawls, John (1971): Chapter 1. In: A Theory of Justice. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, S. 3-34

\*Sen, Amartya (1980): Equality of What? In: S.M. McMurrin (Ed.). The Tanner Lectures on Human Values. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, S.1-26.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

**Credit requirements:** A grade will be awarded to students who attend class regularly, prepare and organize a presentation with discussion management (50%) and write an exam (50%). In some cases, a student may write a term paper instead of an exam.

## Outsiders - Howard S. Beckers Classic on Deviance

**Course type:** BA Seminar                      **ECTS:** 5/6

**Lecturer:** Christian Hilgert

**Description:** The seminar is based on an in-depth reading of Howard S. Becker's 'Outsiders'. In this sociological classic the author investigates the complex relationship between deviant behavior and social order. In subtle and insightful case studies he shows that society contributes to the production of outsiders by observing and labeling unconventional behavior in terms of deviance. He also demonstrates that deviant behavior is neither socially orderless action, nor simply defined by its rejection of social order, but mostly related to specific outsider cultures. In the light of the historical and cultural contingency of what is socially constructed as deviance we will critically discuss the value and validity of Becker's analysis: Are musicians, potheads and homosexuals, Becker's outsiders at the time, the insiders of today? Has society become more tolerant in general or has it just changed its categories for stigmatization and exclusion? What about pedophiles, school shooters, neo-nazis and islamist terrorists as opposed to Beckers charming non-conformists? If we assess Becker's ethnography as part and product of the cultural liberation of the sixties, can we claim that the reevaluation and romantization of deviance transformed the outsider into a cultural icon and role model? How can we understand today's conservative counter-movements, who frame themselves as the new outsiders, confront the 'liberal mainstream' and aim at turning back to former distinctions of normalcy and deviance? And finally, do we conceive of sociologists as detached observers of such contentions or are they inevitable entangled in drawing the lines of social order?

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

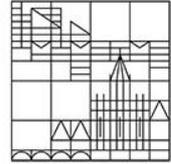
**Credit requirements:** seminar paper

## Politics of "Culture"

**Course type:** BA Seminar                      **ECTS:** 5/6/7

**Lecturer:** Dr. Katharina Bodirsky

**Description:** We will discuss the role of various notions of culture and of cultural identity and difference in political processes of the past and present.



**Literature:** will be announced during the first class session.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

**Credit requirements:** will be announced during the first class session.

## Xenophobia and Discrimination

**Course type:** BA Seminar      **ECTS:** 5/6/7

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Claudia Diehl

**Description:** Central topics of this seminar are on the one hand attitudes towards minorities, immigration, and social diversity and on the other hand the behavioral level that concerns acts of discrimination on certain groups. After clarification of the fundamental conceptualities we examine the questions how relevant attitudes and actions have developed in Germany and in international comparison, how we can explain these developments and which problems are implied by an empirical study of these phenomena. We also deal with the role of xenophobic and critical attitudes on immigration and their impact on the rise of populist movements and parties.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

**Credit requirements:** Essays and seminar paper

## Quantitative Data Analysis

**Course type:** MA Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Maarten Buis

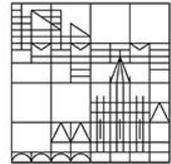
**Description:** This course aims at giving an overview of statistical techniques commonly used in social science research. The first part of the course will be used to refresh basic knowledge, such as cross tabulations, correlation and linear regression. The second part will introduce more advanced topics such as logistic regression, multiple imputation, fixed and random effects models. This course will have an applied focus: the different techniques will be introduced within the context of real social science research.

**Literature:** Donald J. Treiman (2009) "Quantitative Data Analysis: Doing Social Research to Test Ideas", San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

**Prerequisites:** One course on introductory statistics

**Target Group:** Students from the Master Social Economic Data Analysis and other Master programs who wish to get an overview of the statistical techniques out there, and how they are used in real social science research.



## Problems in Empirical Research

**Course type:** MA Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Maarten Buis

**Description:** This seminar is open to all Master students who are doing or planning their own quantitative research and experience problems with data collection, data preparation, choosing the right analysis strategy, and writing up the results. Students who experience such problems can come to the seminar and we will work to find a solution.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

**Target Group:** Students from Social Economic Data Analysis and other Master studies who are preparing or doing their own research project.

## Seminar in Social - and Cultural Anthropology

**Course type:** MA colloquium      **ECTS:** 0/3

**Lecturer:** Mario Krämer

**Description:** The course is devoted to (a) the discussion of research projects and (b) the close reading and discussion of selected 'modern classics' in social and cultural anthropology.

**Literature:** will be announced during the first class session.

**Remarks:** A registration via email with Prof. Thomas G. Kirsch is required.

## Labor Market Sociology

**Course type:** MA Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Thomas Hinz

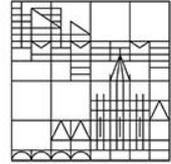
**Description:** Labor market processes determine social inequality to a high degree. The course introduces main concepts of labor market theory referring to labor economics. The main aim is to identify sociological mechanisms in labor markets (e.g. relative deprivation, fairness considerations, social networks, segregation, discrimination, etc.). In addition, basic concepts of causal analysis will be applied to research questions in labor market studies. The course is well suited to accompany students who participate in the two-term research seminar by Susanne Strauß starting in summer 2017.

### **Literature:**

Abraham, Martin/Hinz, Thomas (2008): Arbeitsmarktsoziologie. Probleme, Theorien, empirische Befunde. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag.

List, John A./Rasul, Imran (2011): Field Experiments in Labor Economics. In: Ashenfelter, Orley/Card, David (Hrsg.): Handbook of Labor Market Economics. Vol 4a. Amsterdam: North Holland: 103-228.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.



**Credit requirements:** presentation; two discussant paper/reviews of current research article/books

### [New Developments in Social and Cultural Theory](#)

**Course type:** MA Seminar      **ECTS:** 9/10

**Lecturer:** Christian Meyer zu Verl

**Description:** This course introduces some new developments in social and cultural theory (e.g. Actor-Network-Theory, Neo-Ethnomethodology, Neo-Pragmatism, and Rhetoric-Culture-Theory). Students will read and discuss papers from theorists whose works have shaped current debates. Social and cultural theories try to render the human world understandable. They are intellectual approaches with empirical foundations. Students will explore both how to grasp the logic of a theory and how that theory traces back to social and cultural phenomena.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

**Credit requirements:** constant participation, oral presentation, and essay

### [Ethnographies of the Religious Body](#)

**Course type:** MA Block Seminar (MA Anthropology and Sociology)      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Prof. Rijk van Dijk

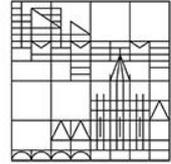
**Description:** This course will explore the interaction of religious ideas, practices and institutions with the body personal AND the body social; that is, it will ask how the religious shaping of individual, social and institutional bodies is occurring, transforming and informing everyday situations. In addition, it will also ask how this kind of exploration of the religious body has been carried out methodologically by studying the ethnographic perspective. The course will draw attention to the anthropological literature in which the body has been understood as a site of cultural reflection; religious identities, moralities, conflicts and interests are often inscribed on personal bodies, in religious corporality, and expressed through institutional bodies. These inscriptions often become manifest in everyday situations where they play out in such matters as gender-relations, sexuality, positions of power and authority, the relations between young and old, but also in matters of style, dress, comportment and sentiment. While the focus of the course will be placed on Africa, a cross-cultural comparison with Europe and beyond will be developed. Students will be invited to engage in some ethnographic practice themselves in terms of recording in the local German context diverging notions of the religious body; i.e. by visiting churches, tattoo-shops, sports-facilities etc. they will be asked to record if and how religious notions are inscribed on the body or are shaping bodies in any particular way.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

**Prerequisites:** Students interested in taking part in the course are required to register with Mrs. Sylvia Seminara (Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of Konstanz) [sylvia.seminara@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:sylvia.seminara@uni-konstanz.de)

**Credit requirements:**

Active participation in class; Reading of Compulsory literature; One Presentation relating to the assigned literature; Leading a discussion; Writing of 2 abstracts relating to the compulsory literature; Writing of a short ethnographic essay; Writing of a seminar paper of 7.500 words (max).



## Resistance

**Course type:** MA Seminar (MA Anthropology and Sociology)

**ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Mirko Göpfert

**Description:** In this seminar we will

- (a) discuss different concepts of resistance (in combination with different theories of power and domination and in contrast to rebellion, insurgency and revolution),
- (b) explore different forms of resistance through a close look at specific case studies (e.g. Occupy Wall Street, anti-colonial resistance, resistance art) and
- (c) develop an anthropological sensitivity for the ethnographic study of resistance practices through participant observation.

**Remarks:** Please join this course on ILIAS (<https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de>) no later than April 17th, 2017. Participation is limited to 25 students.

## English for Students of Political Sciences, Social Sciences, International Relations, Sociology and History

**Course type:** SLI-course (Language Institute)

**ECTS:** 3

**Lecturer:** Ian Howe

**Description:** This course will present political topics that will get you talking and arguing! You will be taught how to discuss in an English manner – making your point whilst keeping your head (and your friends!). You will also learn how to analyse an essay question and then write a critical answer. You will also be introduced to dynamic presenting skills, practice them, and then be at ease delivering a punchy and interesting presentation.

This is a thought provoking course that will also help you develop your English skills in three different areas. You will be expected to be interested in political topics, the big questions and problems of the day, and be prepared to have your ideas challenged. You should, of course, be prepared to contribute.

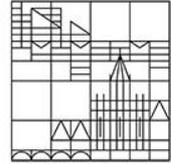
**Literature:** Most weeks there will be a short reading and activity sheet, with discussion questions, to be completed and brought to class.

**Prerequisites:** At least B2 / B2+

**Credit requirements:** Students will be assessed after each section of the course: a short paired discussion, a written essay, and a 5 minute presentation.

**Target Group:** Students of Politics, International Relations, all the Social Sciences and History.

**Learning Objectives:** Students will learn vocabulary and comprehension; students will learn to discuss in an English manner; students will learn to write more clearly and construct an argument in an essay; students will learn how to present in a more dynamic way.



## Courses taught in English in the Department of Sociology – Past semesters

### WINTER SEMESTER 2016/2017

#### [Cultural Anthropology: Modern Classics](#)

**Course type:** BA Seminar      **ECTS:** 6/7

**Lecturer:** Prof. Thomas Kirsch

**Description:** The course is an introduction to selected works in cultural anthropology which have attained the status of "modern classics" because of their innovative contributions to present-day theorizing in anthropology (such as Abu-Lughod, Appadurai, Asad, Barth, Clifford, Comaroff & Comaroff, Csordas, Ferguson, Hannerz, Keane, Marcus, Tedlock).

**Literature:** Will be announced in the first session; Requirement: English

#### [Family Policy in Comparison](#)

**Course type:** BA Seminar      **ECTS:** 5/6/7

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorian Woods

**Description:** In this seminar we examine family policy from a comparative perspective. We start with welfare state development theory and comparative social policy analysis. Then we explore the following family policies: family leave, child care, child/child care allowances, tax benefits for families, pensions and social assistance/unemployment benefits. Our discussions focus on policies in context of gender, class, ethnicity and sexual orientation. We pay special attention to issues around poverty and balancing care work and employment. By the end of the class, students should have deeper knowledge of particular policies and social problems in diverse welfare states as well as a good grasp of the theoretical approaches to analyse these policies. For the most part, readings, presentations and discussion will be in English.

**Literature:**

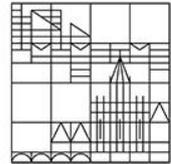
Castles, Francis G.; Leibfried, Stephan; Lewis, Jane; Obinger, Herbert; Pierson, Christopher, 2010: The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Robila, Mihaela (Ed.), 2014: Handbook of Family Policies across the Globe. New York, New York: Springer.

Saraceno, Chiara, Lewis, Jane, Leira, Arnlaug, 2012: Families and Family Policies. Volume one and two. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Zimmerman, Shirley L., 1995, Understanding Family Policy. Theories and Applications. Second edition. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publishing.

**Credit requirements:** A grade will be awarded to students who attend class regularly, prepare and organize a presentation with discussion management (50%) and write an exam (50%).



## Gender and the Welfare State

**Course type:** BA Seminar      **ECTS:** 5/6/7

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorian Woods

**Description:** In this seminar we analyse the origins and development of welfare states and their social policies in the context of gender. We cover a range of particular policies such as social security, pensions, family and sick leave, and employment policies. The goal of this class is to understand basic welfare state theories, policy-making and issues around social policies. The class will start with general approaches and then concentrate on issues of poverty, gender, race and class in relation to social policy. By the end of the class, students should have deeper knowledge of particular policies and social problems in diverse welfare states. They should have a good grasp of the theoretical approaches to welfare states and social policy development as well as elemental tools of social policy evaluation. For the most part, readings, presentations and discussion will be in English.

### **Literature:**

Castles, Francis G.; Leibfried, Stephan; Lewis, Jane; Obinger, Herbert; Pierson, Christopher, 2010: The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Pierson, Christopher; Castles, Francis G.; Naumann, Ingela K. (2014). The Welfare State Reader. Third Edition. Cambridge, UK and Malden, US: Polity Press.

Schmid, Josef (2010). Wohlfahrtsstaaten im Vergleich. 3te. Auflage. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag.

Selected required readings

Esping-Andersen, G. (2000). Chapter 4: the Household Economy, in Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp.47-72.

Fraser, N. (1996). Gender equality and the welfare state: A postindustrial thought experiment. In: S. Benhabib. Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political. Princeton, Princeton University Press. Pp. 218-241.

Orloff, S. (1993) 'Gender and the social rights of citizenship: State policies and gender relations in comparative research', American Sociological Review, 58 3, pp. 303–328.

**Credit requirements:** A grade will be awarded to students who attend class regularly, prepare and organize a presentation with discussion management (50%) and write an exam (50%).

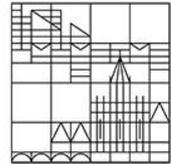
## Migration and Gender

**Course type:** BA Seminar      **ECTS:** 5/6/7

**Lecturer:** Verena Seibel

**Description:** In this course we deal with the questions of how gender may influence on migration decisions and migration processes and how - and why - the integration of male vs female migrants may differ in the respective host countries.

**Credit requirements:** Presentation and term paper



## Terrorism

**Course type:** BA Seminar                      **ECTS:** 5/6/7

**Lecturer:** Nils Meise

**Description:** This course gives an introduction to the study of terrorism, counterterrorism and extremist propaganda.

**Literature:** Hoffmann, Bruce (2006). Inside Terrorism. New York: Columbia University Press.

**Credit requirements:** To pass this course students are required:

- to be actively involved in discussions;
- to write a term paper proposal;
- to rewrite their term paper proposal;
- to give peer feedback;
- to do a presentation in class based on their term paper proposal;
- to write a 5000 words term paper.

Students need to pass all assignments to pass the course. The final grade is based on:

- performance in class 10%
- term paper proposals 20%
- presentation 20%
- term paper 50%

## English for Students of Political Sciences, Social Sciences, International Relations, Sociology & History

**Course type:** SLI-course (Language Institute)

**ECTS:** 3

**Lecturer:** Ian Howe

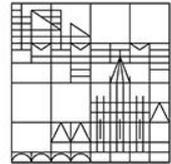
**Description:** This course offers students the opportunity to develop their English skills in discussing and writing. Political topics will be introduced through weekly readings, worksheets and class presentation. These will be discussed in small groups using phrases and skills for discussing in an English style. Academic writing skills will be developed through an analysis and application of English clausal elements. This will enable students to write in an English academic manner.

**Literature:** Weekly readings, associated worksheet, and discussion questions will be uploaded to ILIAS for completion prior to each class.

**Prerequisites:** English B2 Level. Students should be able to use English confidently at B2 and be prepared to contribute in discussions.

**Credit requirements:** Regular attendance. Students will be summararily assessed by a paired speaking task (using discussion phrases) and by a timed (over 1 week) written task (applying the skills learnt in class).

**Target Group:** Students who are studying Political or Social Sciences or International Relations.



**Learning Objectives:** Improving English style discussion skills by familiarising oneself with, and practically applying, English discussion phrases. Learning how to use clausal elements to write in a clear, concise and academic manner. How to plan and execute an essay.

### Analyzing Scientific Debates

**Course type:** MA Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Hanno Scholtz

### Ethnographies of the Religious Body

**Course type:** MA Block Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

**Lecturer:** Prof. Rijk van Dijk

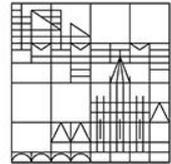
**Description:** This course will explore the interaction of religious ideas, practices and institutions with the body personal AND the body social; that is, it will ask how the religious shaping of individual, social and institutional bodies is occurring, transforming and informing everyday situations. In addition, it will also ask how this kind of exploration of the religious body has been carried out methodologically by studying the ethnographic perspective. The course will draw attention to the anthropological literature in which the body has been understood as a site of cultural reflection; religious identities, moralities, conflicts and interests are often inscribed on personal bodies, in religious corporality, and expressed through institutional bodies. These inscriptions often become manifest in everyday situations where they play out in such matters as gender-relations, sexuality, positions of power and authority, the relations between young and old, but also in matters of style, dress, comportment and sentiment. While the focus of the course will be placed on Africa, a cross-cultural comparison with Europe and beyond will be developed. Students will be invited to engage in some ethnographic practice themselves in terms of recording in the local German context diverging notions of the religious body; i.e. by visiting churches, tattoo-shops, sports-facilities etc. they will be asked to record if and how religious notions are inscribed on the body or are shaping bodies in any particular way.

**Literature:** Detailed information as well as a programme will follow to all interested students via email by Prof. Dr. Rijk van Dijk

**Remarks:** A participation in the introduction meeting is not obligatory for external students (e.g. german students from other Universities). Students who would like to participate urgently need to register via email to : [sylvia.seminara@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:sylvia.seminara@uni-konstanz.de)

**Credit requirements:**

- Active participation in class
- Reading of Compulsory literature
- One Presentation relating to the compulsory literature
- Leading a discussion
- Writing of 2 abstracts relating to the assigned literature
- Writing of a short ethnographic essay



## Ethnomethodology

**Course type:** MA Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Christian Meyer

**Description:** In this course we will first familiarize ourselves with the basic principles, assumptions, interests and methodologies of ethnomethodological research. We will then review newer literature that possesses an ethnomethodological inclination in as varying sociological fields as practice theory, the Sociology of Scientific Knowledge (SSK), Science and Technology Studies (STS), Workplace Studies, Actor-network Theory (ANT) and the neo-pragmatic Sociology of Critique as well as Conversation Analysis (CA).

## Factorial Survey Experiments

**Course type:** MA Block Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

**Lecturer:** Prof.Dr. Thomas Hinz

**Description:** Survey experiments have come to be a standard tool for investigating people's attitudes, values, opinions and decisions. In particular, there is an increasing use of methods that integrate multi-factorial experimental set-ups into surveys, like conjoint analyses, choice-experiments, and factorial surveys. The course focuses in particular at factorial surveys in which respondents are asked to rate fictive situations or objects. By systematically varying attributes of the situations or objects, it is possible to determine their influence on attitudes or decisions. In addition, the method helps to find out the amount of social consensus. Do all respondents share similar values or are there differences across social groups like younger or older cohorts, people belonging to political elites or not? Researchers' controlled experimental variation of stimuli allows a reliable evaluation of the impact of the attributes. What is the more, the method allows an explicit testing of decision processes and theories. The course gives a theoretical and practical overview on experimental survey methods. Participants will learn and discuss the features, typical applications, advantages, and shortcomings of different methods, with a special focus on the measurement of social norms and values.

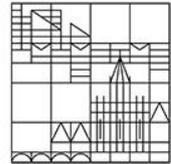
**Literature:** Auspurg, Katrin and Hinz, Thomas (2015). Factorial Survey Experiments. Series: Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks (CA): Sage.

## (In)Security: Anthropological Perspectives

**Course type:** MA Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Thomas Kirsch

**Description:** Among the multifarious transformation processes that can presently be observed worldwide, there is probably hardly any phenomenon which is as momentous as the one having to do with questions of 'security'. The so-called war against terrorism and the boundary-drawing reactions against refugee movements to Europe are just two example for the increasing thematisation of threat scenarios against which security measures are claimed to be necessary. Against the backdrop of readings of classical texts on 'security' and 'surveillance', the course deals with a broad variety of empirical examples of security discourses and practices, in so doing, putting particular emphasis on what has been called 'securitization' – that is, speech acts which declare an issue to be a 'security issue', thus (allegedly) putting it outside of the political realm.



### Poverty and inequality in Comparison (with LIS data)

**Course type:** MA Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

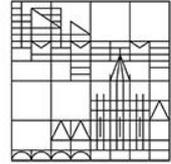
**Lecturer:** Dr. Hanno Scholtz

### Urban Materiality and Sociality: Intermediating concepts

**Course type:** MA Block Seminar      **ECTS:** 8/9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Tilmann Heil

**Description:** In the aftermath of several attempts to re-define and better understand the qualities of the material and the social, such as in actor-network theory (Latour), urban scholars in recent years have put forward several approaches in order to understand the urban in new ways. Intermediating concepts such as assemblage and infrastructure attempt to think urban materiality and urban sociality together. In this course, we will critically review and question the co-occurrences and resemblances of materiality and sociality, as well as their interplay and interdependencies. We will compare the various concepts, identify their communalities and stress their differences. We will do this on the basis of theoretically minded, conceptually sharp ethnographic examples dealing with urbanities different in character and located across both southern and northern hemisphere.



## SUMMER SEMESTER 2016

### Gender and Welfare State

**Course type:** BA special sociology      **ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Dr. Woods, Dorian

**Description:** In this seminar we analyse social policies development and theories of welfare state research with particular regard to gender. In order to understand welfare state complexity we cover a range of particular policies such as social assistance, family and sick leave, taxes in social issues, health and child care with special focus on German social policies in comparison. The goal of this class is to understand basic welfare state theories, policy-making and issues around social policies, such as poverty, gender, race and class – as well as the latest development of gender research. By the end of the class, students should have deeper knowledge of social problems and social structures. They should have a good grasp of the theoretical approaches and concepts of welfare state and social policy development, as well as the ability to understand established authors' gender critiques and to reflect on and apply their own questions and assessments. For the most part, readings, presentations and discussion will be in English.

**Literature:** Required literature will be uploaded on the Ilias Platform. We will be reading critiques from authors such as Ilona Ostner, Jane Lewis, Sigrid Leitner, Ann Orloff and Mary Daly. Good overviews of welfare state topics and issues can be found in the following books:

- Castles, Francis G.; Leibfried, Stephan; Lewis, Jane; Obinger, Herbert; Pierson, Christopher, 2010: The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State, Oxford Handbooks in Politics & International Relations, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Schmid, Josef (2010). Wohlfahrtsstaaten im Vergleich. 3te. Auflage. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag.

**Credit requirements:** A grade will be awarded to students who attend class regularly, prepare and organize a learning unit from one of the topics of the seminar with presentation and write a term paper due at the end of the semester.

### Merton

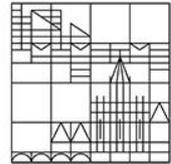
**Course type:** BA classics course      **ECTS:** 6

**Lecturer:** Zakharine, Dmitri

**Description:** The seminar focuses on the scientific heritage of a distinguished American sociologist Robert K. Merton, whose contribution to 1) the sociology of science, 2) the theory of social role strains, as well as 3) the theory of social functions cannot be underestimated. Some of the crucial innovations that Merton made to sociology include the description of the unanticipated consequences of social action, of latent functions vs. manifest functions. According to Merton, unanticipated consequences are actions that have both intended and unintended consequences. Everyone is aware of the intended consequences, but the unintended are more difficult to recognize, and therefore, sociological analysis is required to uncover what they may be. Participants have to prepare a presentation of one of the works by Robert Merton.

**Literature:** • Robert K. Merton: Social Theory & Social Structure (1949) = dt. Soziologische Theorie & soziale Struktur (De Gruyter 1995)

• Robert K. Merton: The Sociology of Science (1973) = dt. Entwicklung und Wandel von Forschungsinteressen (Suhrkamp 1985)



## "Securing Your World": A Cultural Sociological Approach for Understanding the Rise of the Private Security Industry

**Course type:** BA special sociology      **ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Meise, Nils

**Description:** In this course we will discuss the (recent) rise of the private security industry from a cultural sociological perspective. Beginning with the notion of social order and the monopolization of violence (Hobbes) we go on and dive into the history of private armies and modern mercenaries. Beside that we will also cover outsourcing of executive power, privatization of former government run institutions and possible impacts on society.

Students should be open minded, actively engage themselves in discussion and be prepared to enter a field where little to no research (by sociologists) has been done so far.

## Why Love Hurts. An Introduction to Affect Theory

**Course type:** BA special sociology      **ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Grunow, Hendrikje

**Description:** The course will be separated into three parts. In the first part of the semester, we will focus on classic writings from the anthropology of emotion, like Renato Rosaldo or Catherine Lutz. In the second part, we will have a closer look at standard texts from other disciplines, like Massumi, Kosofky Sedgwick, or Ahmed. In the last part, we will investigate methodological approaches to affect in research and writing in an experimental way. Prominent authors will be Michael Taussig, Ruth Behar and Kathleen Stewart.

## Survey Design and Analysis

**Course type:** BA project seminar      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Annette Jäckle

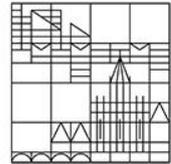
**Description:** This course will introduce students to the methodology of designing sample surveys and the principles of analyzing survey data. The seminar will be based around an experiment implemented in the UK Household Longitudinal Study Innovation Panel that was designed to improve the measurement of changes and stability experienced by sample members.

## English for Students of Political Sciences, Social Sciences or International Relations

**Course type:** Kurs (SLI)/ course (Language Institute)      **ECTS:** 3

**Lecturer:** Howe, Jan

**Description:** This course offers students the opportunity to develop their English skills in discussing and writing. Political topics will be introduced through weekly readings, worksheets and class presentation. These will be discussed in small groups using phrases and skills for discussing in an English style. Academic writing skills will be developed through an analysis and application of English clausal elements. This will enable students to write in an



English academic manner.

**Literature:** Weekly readings, associated worksheet, and discussion questions will be uploaded to ILIAS for completion prior to each class.

**Prerequisites:** B2. Students should be able to use English confidently at B2 and be prepared to contribute in discussions.

**Credit requirements:** Students will be summararily assessed by a paired speaking task (using discussion phrases) and by a timed (over 1 week) written task (applying the skills learnt in class). Regular attendance.

**Target group:** Students who are studying Political or Social Sciences or International Relations.

**Learning objectives:** Improving English style discussion skills by familiarising oneself with, and practically applying, English discussion phrases. Learning how to use clausal elements to write in a clear, concise and academic manner. How to plan and execute an essay.

### English for Students of History and Sociology

**Course type:** Kurs (SLI)/ course (Language Institute)

**ECTS:** 3

**Lecturer:** Howe, Ian

**Description:** Students of History and Sociology will improve their discussion, presentation, writing, and listening and note taking skills. The course will be divided into these four parts, and will use both sociological and historical topics. (soc. examples include, Sex and Punishment, Class, Education. Hist. topics may be chosen from an exhaustive list)

**Literature:** Almost all work is completed in class but a limited amount of reading and images for consideration will be uploaded to ILIAS some weeks.

**Prerequisites:** B2. Students should be able to use English at B2 and be prepared to contribute in discussions.

**Credit requirements:** Students will be formatively assessed (during the course) by a paired speaking task, by an individual presentation of the students choice, and by a short written task . Regular attendance is required.

**Target group:** Students of History or Sociology, who enjoy thinking and challenging each others discipline from their own academic perspectives.

**Learning objectives:** Students will develop discussion skills in small groups. Students will learn how to plan and deliver presentations which are more dynamic. Students will develop their listening and note taking skills. Students will also work on their essay planning and writing skills.

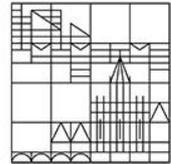
### The symbolic in the political

**Course type:** Master seminar (see online catalogue)

**ECTS:**

**Lecturer:** Dr. Acosta, Raül

**Description:** The symbolic in the political is an assumed dimension of its significance. This course offers a systematic examination of its aesthetic, performative, and interactive implications, from anthropological and historical perspectives. As a sphere of human sociality where antagonism is rife, the political uses representations



to convey power and legitimacy. The political is here understood as the arena for a management of collective affairs through sanctioned means. Politics, on the other hand, is considered as the practices to carry out such administration. In this course, students will compare a variety of qualitative analyses in order to develop skills in identifying and evaluating the role of the symbolic in the political.

**Credit requirements:** 1 presentation; 6 critical notes (400 words each); 1 final essay (20 pages)

### The city as anthropological field

**Course type:** Master seminar (see online catalogue)      **ECTS:**

**Lecturer:** Dr. Acosta, Raúl

**Description:** Anthropological studies of cities have made substantial contributions to scholarship on the dynamics of social life and material culture in built environments. Attention to sociocultural and biopolitical ceremonies sheds light on the navigation of moral norms and physical space that metropolises have required throughout history. This course will provide students with insights on four spheres of urban life that are essential to understanding their complex character: (a) built environment; (b) ethnoscapes; (c) flows and traces; and (d) ethical imagination. These are not mutually exclusive, but rather intertwined. By using them as lenses to scrutinize the city as anthropological field, students will learn from recent theoretical and methodological approaches in the discipline.

**Credit requirements:** 1 presentation; 6 critical notes (400 words each)

### Survey Methodology

**Course type:** MA / graduate advanced research and methods course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Annette Jäckle

**Description:** The aim of this course is to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of modern survey design and measurement. The focus will be on practical transferable survey skills required to conduct professional surveys.

By the end of the module students should be able to:

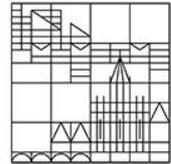
- Understand the principles of survey sampling
- Distinguish between different types of survey designs and their uses
- Understand and explain the total survey error framework
- Demonstrate an understanding of the key features of effective questionnaire design
- Design a questionnaire using current best practice
- Identify the different modes of survey data collection and the implications for cost and quality

### Introduction to Longitudinal Research Methods

**Course type:** MA / graduate advanced research and methods course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Annette Jäckle

**Description:** Learning objectives: learn about the analytical advantages of longitudinal data and different options



for collecting longitudinal data; become familiar with the design of major (German ) panel surveys; become aware of data quality aspects that are specific to longitudinal surveys; learn about best practice for the design of panel surveys; become familiar with the research methods used in studying survey methodology; learn to use longitudinal data and to analyse experiments; develop your own research questions and research design.

### Power and resistance

**Course type:** MA seminar      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Prof. Kirsch, Thomas

**Description:** “Where there is power”, wrote Michel Foucault, “there is resistance, and yet, or rather consequently, this resistance is never in a position of exteriority in relation to power”. The course takes this seemingly paradoxical statement as a starting point to examine sociological and anthropological perspectives on power, dominance and authority and to explore how the relationship between ‘power’ and ‘resistance’ is delineated in these perspectives.

**Literature:** will be announced in the first session

**Credit requirements:** will be announced in the first session

### Problems in Empirical Research

**Course type:** MA / graduate advanced research and methods course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Marteen

**Description:** This seminar is open to all Master and PhD students who are doing or planning their own quantitative research and experience problems with data collection, data preparation, choosing the right analysis strategy, and writing up the results. Students who experience such problems can come to the seminar and we will work to find a solution.

### Seminar in Social and Cultural Anthropology

**Course type:** Kolloquium / Colloquium      **ECTS:** 0/3

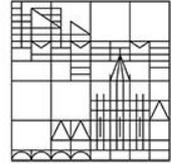
**Lecturer:** Prof. Kirsch, Thomas

**Description:** The course is devoted to (a) the discussion of research projects and (b) the close reading and discussion of selected "modern classics" in social and cultural anthropology.

**Literature:** More details on the course will be provided in the first session.

**Prerequisites:** New participants are kindly requested to approach Prof. Thomas G. Kirsch well in advance.

**Target Group:** PhD. Students; Master Students with invitation



## WINTER SEMESTER 2015/2016

### Islam and Politics

**Course type:** BA Projektseminar / Undergraduate project course

**ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Göpfert, Mirco

**Description:**

This project seminar is about at least two (closely related) forms of the connection between “Islam and politics”. (a) We will deal with formalized politics and explicitly “political” movements, including all social actors and organizations swirling around in that field, for example Muslim interest groups, populist anti-Muslim organizations or any actors taking part in, for example, local politics or debates concerned with “Muslim issues” (e.g. the “Burkini”, mosque construction projects, headscarves in schools etc.). Here, Islam has virtually become the “object of politics”. And (b) we will deal with everyday, unorganized and often implicit forms of the political, which I provisionally understand as the sphere in which power relations are articulated, (re)produced, and challenged. Especially important will be issues of representation, identification and ethics that articulate Islam or being a Muslim.

The seminar is organized into three phases: In the first phase we will, based on mainly anthropological texts, get an overview of different forms of the relationship between Islam and politics (or the political). At the same time, we will -- also based on compulsory reading -- discuss the ethnographic method of participant observation. Starting from there, students will in the second phase of the seminar focus on their own research projects, which they will develop and conduct individually or in small groups, and which we will discuss in our seminar. In the last phase, students will present preliminary results of their research projects and finally (during the semester break) write a research report (the seminar paper).

The seminar will be held in English. Papers and other writing assignments can be written in English or German.

Apply for this seminar until 8 October 2015 via email to [mirco.goepfert@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:mirco.goepfert@uni-konstanz.de)

**Literature:** Osella, Filippo, and Benjamin Soares, eds. 2010. Islam, Politics, Anthropology. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.

**Prerequisites:** Apply for this seminar until 8 October 2015 via email to [mirco.goepfert@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:mirco.goepfert@uni-konstanz.de)

**Credit requirements:** For this project seminar I expect all participants to regularly attend the seminar sessions, to thoroughly read and engage with the texts to be discussed in the seminar, to prepare and conduct an individual research project, to present provisional results in a seminar presentation, and to write a final research report (during the semester break).

### Family demography: Family change and variation

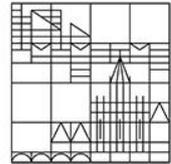
**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie/ Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Prof. Strauß, Susanne

**Description:**

This seminar examines changes in family behaviours and household relationships from a demographic perspective. The major focus is on post-World War II United States. Seminar discussion will consider explanations and classical debates about changing family forms and family variation, as well as assess implications for empirical research and public policy. In a first part we will discuss the demographic perspective on the family, review the broad trends in family transitions and structures, introduce theoretical perspectives on union formation and family change. Then



we will turn to topics that dominate current research in family demography: young adult transitions, cohabitation and marriage, parenting and investment in children, intergenerational relationships and the intersection of work and the family.

### English for Students of History and Sociology

**Course type:** Kurs (SLI)/ course (Language Institute)

**ECTS:** 3

**Lecturer:** Ian Howe

**Description:**

Students of History and Sociology will improve their discussion, presentation, listening and note taking, and writing skills. The course will be divided into these four parts to work on these skills, using both sociological and historical topics.

**Literature:** Almost all work is completed in class but a limited amount of reading/pictures for thinking about will be uploaded to ILIAS (online learning platform). Students to check ILIAS weekly.

**Prerequisites:** B2

Students should be able to use English at B2 and be prepared to contribute in discussions.

**Credit requirements:** Students are assessed by a timed (1 week) summative 500 word essay, by a mid-semester presentation of 10 minutes on their chosen topic, and by a final week 10 minute paired discussion.

**Target group:** Students of History or Sociology, who enjoy thinking and challenging each others discipline from their own academic perspectives.

**Learning objectives:** Students will participate in small group discussions on sociological topics. Listening and note taking skills will be developed in line with presentation skills on historical topics. Finally, students will work on their essay planning and writing skills.

### English for Students of Political Sciences, Social Sciences or International Relations

**Course type:** Kurs (SLI)/ course (Language Institute)

**ECTS:** 3

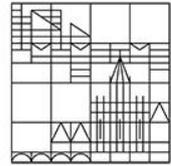
**Lecturer:** Ian Howe

**Description:** This course offers students the opportunity to develop their English skills in discussing and writing. Political topics will be introduced through weekly readings, worksheets and class presentation. These will be discussed in small groups using phrases and skills for discussing in an English style. Academic writing skills will be developed through an analysis and application of English clausal elements. This will enable students to write in an English academic manner.

**Literature:** Weekly readings, associated worksheet, and discussion questions will be uploaded to ILIAS for completion prior to each class.

**Prerequisites:** B2. Students should be able to use English confidently at B2 and be prepared to contribute in discussions.

**Credit requirements:** Students will be summararily assessed by a paired speaking task (using discussion phrases)



and by a 500-750 word written task (applying the skills learnt in class). Regular attendance.

**Target group:** Students who are studying Political or Social Sciences or International Relations.

**Learning objectives:** Improving English style discussion skills by familiarising oneself with, and practically applying, English discussion phrases. Learning how to use clausal elements to write in a clear, concise and academic manner.

## Political activism

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Acosta, Raúl

### **Description:**

When people come together outside of established mechanisms to try and influence states of affairs of a broader collective, they enact ceremonies of dissent. Anthropologists have for centuries now scrutinized contrasting forms through which social assemblages deal with communal affairs. What is known as 'political activism' draws from other types of ceremonies (e.g., religious) in order to pose challenges to social norms or people in positions of authority. The tactics, material culture, and organizing principles that activists use are all elements of ceremonial renewal of the collective in question. As concerns have crossed various boundaries (ethnic, state), the symbolism used has incorporated new references while maintaining a ritual process. In this course, students will gain insights into recent theoretical and methodological approaches that anthropologists have used to study political activism.

**Literature:** To be included in ILIAS (online learning platform) in October

**Credit requirements:** Active participation / Read obligatory texts / 3 critical notes (300 words) / 2 essays (2.000 words)

## Quantitative Data Analysis

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

### **Description:**

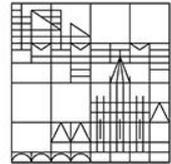
This course aims at giving an overview of statistical techniques commonly used in social science research. The first part of the course will be used to refresh basic knowledge, such as cross tabulations, correlation and linear regression. The second part will introduce more advanced topics such as logistic regression, multiple imputation, fixed and random effects models. This course will have an applied focus: the different techniques will be introduced within the context of real social science research.

### **Literature:**

Donald J. Treiman (2009) "Quantitative Data Analysis: Doing Social Research to Test Ideas", San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

**Prerequisites:** One course introductory statistics.

**Target group:** Students from the Master Social Economic Data Analysis and other Master programs who wish to get an overview of the statistical techniques out there, and how they are used in real social science research.



## Causal Analysis

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

## Log-linear models [Blockveranstaltung]

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 9

**CTS:**

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

## Survival Analysis [Blockveranstaltung]

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

### **Description:**

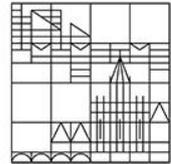
Survival analysis (a.k.a. event history analysis, duration analysis or transition analysis) has been used to investigate durations, e.g. how long people stay unemployed, how long a cancer patient lives, or how long it takes a country to ratify a treaty. What these examples have in common is that they all look at how long it takes until a certain event occurs. In this course I will discuss the various challenges and opportunities that this type of data offer. The focus of this course will be to develop an intuition of the logic behind the different techniques rather than formal proofs, and on practical knowledge on how to use these techniques using Stata.

### **Literature:**

Mario Cleves, William Gould, Roberto G. Gutierrez, and Yulia V. Marchenko (2010) "An Introduction to Survival Analysis Using Stata", Third Edition. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge of linear regression.

**Target group:** Students from the Master Social Economic Data Analysis and other Master studies.



## Categorical Data Analysis [Blockveranstaltung]

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

### **Description:**

This course shows you efficient and effective ways to use regression models for categorical and count outcomes. A key part of these models is that they are nonlinear, and consequently the simple interpretations that are possible in linear models are no longer appropriate. No single method of interpretation can fully describe the relationships among the independent variables and the outcome. Rather, a series of postestimation explorations are needed to uncover the most important aspects of these relationships. We will use a book about data analysis which does not focus on a formal treatment of statistical models. Instead, this course will focus on using Stata to estimate and interpret models for binary, ordinal, nominal, and count outcomes.

### **Literature:**

J. Scott Long and Jeremy Freese (2006) "Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables Using Stata", Second Edition. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge of linear regression.

**Target group:** Students from the Master Social Economic Data Analysis and other Master studies.

## Problems in Empirical Research

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

### **Description:**

This seminar is open to all Master students who are doing or planning their own quantitative research and experience problems with data collection, data preparation, choosing the right analysis strategy, and writing up the results. Students who experience such problems can come to the seminar and we will work to find a solution.

## Ethnography

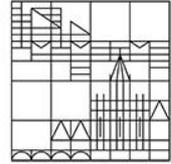
**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Göpfert, Mirco

### **Description:**

This seminar will give students the opportunity to intensively engage with the methodological premises and the empirical practice of ethnographic research.

There will be two main sources of input and inspiration for this seminar: literature and empirical research assignments conducted by the participants. The seminar will thus have two kinds of sessions: (a) "traditional" seminar sessions in which we will, based on the compulsory reading of key texts, discuss recent reflections on the possibilities and challenges of ethnography; and (b) workshop-like sessions, at the center of which are the participants' own research exercises.



The participants thus have the opportunity to practice the fundamental research methods (participant observation) and writing techniques (e.g. fieldnotes and ethnographic vignettes) of ethnography, and to discuss them competently -- particularly with regards to questions of intersubjectivity, reflexivity, and interpretation.

The seminar will be held in English. Papers and other writing assignments can be written in English or German.

**Literature:** Duneier, Mitchell [mit Fotos von Ovie Carter]. 1999. Sidewalk. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux.

**Credit requirements:** For this project seminar I expect all participants to regularly attend the seminar sessions, to thoroughly read and engage with the texts to be discussed in the seminar, to give a presentation, and to complete a number of practical research and writing assignments throughout the semester.

### [Bounded Rationality. Modelling choice, its social effects, ecological adequacy and evolutionary fitness](#)

**Course type:** MA Soziologische Theorie II / Sociological Theory II

**ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Prof. Junge, Kay

#### **Description:**

Half a century ago Herbert Simon launched a small number of models of bounded rationality as possible alternatives to the then prevailing paradigm of rational choice. After Simon won the Nobel prize, economists eventually started to give at least lip service to the notion of bounded rationality, while sociologists pretended to be already in the know by ruminating the words habitus and praxis with the now obligatory salute to Bourdieu. Luckily, in recent years we have learned to do a little better, and for purposes of teaching can even rely on a small number of monographs which might be used as text books. In this seminar we will take a closer look at some of the classical models outlined by Simon and some of his early collaborators and proceed to more recent attempts to tackle decision problems where actors lack the requisite variety to anticipate, calculate and meet all possible contingencies, do not remember exactly how they arrived in their current situation, need to handle inconsistent preferences or do not know their own type. In addition to that we will also follow up on some modelling attempts to get a better feel for how such decisions and learning processes do effect aggregate outcomes. Unfortunately there is much adhocery in this research and therefore we will keep the question of whether these approaches could be reintegrated into some perhaps more general model of optimization or could even be conceived of as special cases of rational choice taking computing costs as another constraint on decision making into account at the back of our mind and our discussions. A final disclaimer: This seminar does not presume particular technical or formal skills on behalf of students. Everything will be explained as we go along.

#### **Literature:**

Herbert Simon, Models of Bounded Rationality, 2. Vols. , MIT-Press 1982.  
Ran Spiegler, Bounded Rationality and Consumer Choice, Oxford U.P. 2011.  
Ariel Rubinstein, Modeling Bounded Rationality, MIT-Press 1998.

### [Diasporic and Transnational mobilities. Exploring connections in a globalizing world; the comparative case of Africa.](#)

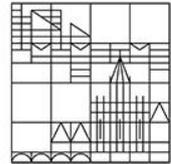
**Course type:** MA Projektseminar/ Graduate Project Seminar

**ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Prof. van Dijk, Rijk

#### **Description:**

While globality has emerged as an idiom of seemingly unfettered travel and connectivity, the social science study



of the process of globalization is demonstrating a multitude of different forms of mobility, captured by a range of different terms – migration, diaspora, transnationalism and so on – while each is marked by a variety of experiences of the flows and closures in the lived realities of a today's world of borders, identity politics, strangerhood and cultural sentiments. Taking a comparative perspective, with a focus on Africa, of the long record of the flows and closures that the experience of the global has brought, this course examines when and how diaspora and transnational mobilities are produced and experienced by communities at home and abroad, connections across space and time are claimed in terms of geographical locations and memory-work, and multifaceted transnational engagements from Africa with the West have evolved. The course will pay particular attention to the ways in which these movements are produced by a circulation of people, objects, and images, especially focusing on emerging diasporic religious social fields which appear highly relevant for the individual navigation of these (often contested) forms of mobility.

### [Foucault in Africa: the Minutiae of Power and the Culture of Governmentality](#)

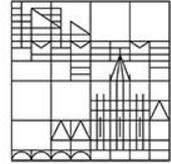
**Course type:** MA Projektseminar/ Graduate Project Seminar

**ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Prof. van Dijk, Rijk

**Description:**

While globality has emerged as an idiom of seemingly unfettered travel and connectivity, the social science study of the process of globalization is demonstrating a multitude of different forms of mobility, captured by a range of different terms – migration, diaspora, transnationalism and so on – while each is marked by a variety of experiences of the flows and closures in the lived realities of a today's world of borders, identity politics, strangerhood and cultural sentiments. Taking a comparative perspective, with a focus on Africa, of the long record of the flows and closures that the experience of the global has brought, this course examines when and how diaspora and transnational mobilities are produced and experienced by communities at home and abroad, connections across space and time are claimed in terms of geographical locations and memory-work, and multifaceted transnational engagements from Africa with the West have evolved. The course will pay particular attention to the ways in which these movements are produced by a circulation of people, objects, and images, especially focusing on emerging diasporic religious social fields which appear highly relevant for the individual navigation of these (often contested) forms of mobility.



## SUMMER SEMESTER 2015

### Economic and socio-cultural integration of immigrants in Europe

**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie / Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Prof. Mühlau, Peter

**Description:** The seminar examines the economic, social and cultural integration of migrants and their children in Europe. After an introduction to the central theoretical perspectives in the assimilation discourse, we explore integration processes and their outcomes in different dimensions such as the labour market, education, association or values. We examine the interrelations between these integration processes and how they are shaped by host and origin country institutions and social structures.

- Alba, R. and Nee, V. (2003) Remaking the American mainstream. Assimilation and contemporary immigration, Harvard University Press.
- Heath, A., Roblon, C. and Kilpi, E. (2008) 'The second generation in Western Europe: Education, unemployment and occupational attainment' Annual Review of Sociology, 34: 211-235.

**Credit requirements:** presentation and essay

### Family, Work and Gender

**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie / Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Prof. Mühlau, Peter

**Description:** In this seminar, we look how gender relations shape the organisation of work and family life. Theoretical explanations for gender differences in these spheres will be introduced and empirically examined using comparative and historical data. The seminar is directed toward sociology and gender students with a taste for quantitative data.

**Literature:** Mukesh Eswaran: Why Gender Matters in Economics. Princeton University Press 2014

**Credit requirements:** Presentation and essay

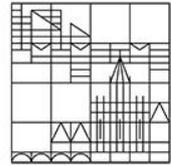
### Gender and Welfare State Research

**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie/ Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Prof. Strauß Susanne

**Description:** In this seminar we analyse the theories of welfare state development and analyses of social policies with view to gender research. In order to understand welfare state complexity we cover a range of particular policies such social assistance, family and sick leave, taxes in social issues, health and child care with special focus on German social policies in comparison. The goal of this class is to understand basic welfare state theories, policy-making and issues around social policies, such as poverty, gender, race and class – as well as the latest development of gender research. By the end of the class, students should have deeper knowledge of particular policies and social problems in diverse welfare states. They should have a good grasp of the theoretical approaches



and concepts of welfare state and social policy development, as well as to use feminist critiques and to reflect on gender questions in the research.

### Monstrosity & Humanity: With Writing Component

**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie / Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Dr. Kwek, Dorothy

**Description:** Monsters call forth our deepest fears and darkest fantasies. While the monster is marked by its uncanniness, its inhumanness, the label ‘monster’ is a marker of strangeness, of non-belonging; hence the use of the category of ‘the monstrous’ has a deeply social significance. This course traces the social, imaginary, and intellectual paths of the monster and its near relatives—the beast and the freak—in order to map how monstrosity serves as the variable heterogeneity that seals the boundaries of identity, of the normal, the human, the social.

The course includes a significant writing component. Hands-on writing sessions are integrated with the readings to teach participants how to construct a compelling argument for an audience of international scholars. We especially address the problems faced by non-native speakers of English, and provide individualized feedback to help students become more proficient in academic English.

Students who plan on an exchange semester in a university where English is the primary language of instruction may find the course helpful.

### Evolution, Society, and Human Behavior [block seminar]

**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie / Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Dr. Schnettler, Sebastian

**Description:** The concept of evolution is a great unifying concept in modern thought. Yet, there has been a longstanding and, at times, fierce debate about the relevance of evolutionary concepts to the explanation of human behavior, particularly in sociology. In this class, we will learn about current biological approaches to explain human behavior, with a particular focus on the co-influence of social, cultural, and biological forces on behavior. We will also learn what objections against the use of biological explanations sociologists raise and how these are justified in the face of current research in the field. In the course of this class, we will see examples for how hormones affect behavior, how even biology helps dispelling some myths about race and sex, why “nature vs. nurture” is a wrong dualism, and how ignoring the genetics of behavior can lead to biased conclusions about social inequality.

**Literature:**

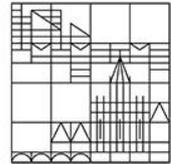
- Laland, Kevin N., und Gillian R. Brown. 2002. Sense and nonsense: Evolution-ary perspectives on human behaviour. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Machalek, Richard and Michael W. Martin. 2004. “Sociology and the Second Darwinian Revolution: A Metatheoretical Analysis.” Sociological Theory 22(3):455–76.

### New Media and Society

**Course type:** MA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie / Graduate Course  
MA Soziologische Theorie II / Sociological Theory II

**ECTS:** 4/8

**ECTS:** 10



**Lecturer:** Dr. Raufer, Thilo

**Description:** If anything, today we have to recognize how the uses and appropriations of media penetrate all aspects of contemporary life. This world is what Roger Silverstone (2007), Alex de Jong and Marc Schuilenburg (2006), and Sam Inkinen (1998) label a 'mediapolis': a comprehensively mediated public space where media underpin and overarch the experiences and expressions of everyday life. (...) We are living a media life" (Deuze 2011).

In the seminar we will try to analyze different aspects of the mediatized world and the media life, the emerging socio-technical constellations and the changes on a societal, personal, and political level. We will look at the phenomenon in a theoretical and an empirical perspective and will discuss such phenomena as augmented reality, software society, synthetic situations, the relevance of algorithms, networked publics, social and political surveillance and the internet of things.

**Literature:**

- Deuze, Mark (2011): Media Life, in: Media, Culture, & Society 33, S.137-148;
- Baym, Nancy K. 2010. "Making New Media Make Sense" Pp. 22-49 in Personal Connections in the Digital Age, edited by Nancy K. Baym. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Gillespie, Tarleton et.al. (ed). 2014. Media Technologies. Essays on Communication, Materiality, and Society, London: MIT Press.

**Credit requirements:** class presentation and term paper

## [Ethnic Discrimination](#)

**Course type:** MA Projektseminar/ Graduate Project Seminar

**ECTS:** 14

**Lecturer:** Prof. Mühlau, Peter

**Description:** Self-reported discrimination is used as a standard measure of ethnic discrimination in surveys. But when is an unpleasant experience considered a form of ethnic discrimination? In this project seminar we develop and pilot a field study for first findings to this question.

**Literature:**

Devah Pager and Hana Shepherd (2008): The Sociology of Discrimination: Racial Discrimination in Employment, Housing, Credit, and Consumer Markets. Annual review of Sociology

**Credit requirements:** Presentation and essay

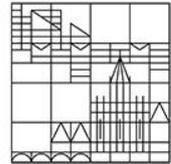
## [Anthropology of money \[block seminar\]](#)

**Course type:** MA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie/ Graduate Course

**ECTS:** 4/8

**Lecturer:** Wiese, Inken

**Description:** With the help of anthropological studies on the uses of money in different societies at different times, we will analyse money's social roles and meanings as well as its pragmatics in different modalities of exchange and circulation. Moving from studies on shell money on South-Pacific Islands to studies on current financial markets, we will question the general assumption of a transformation of money from socially embedded to disembedded and abstracted economic forms.



**Literature:** Course readings will be made available at the start of the semester. Recommended introductory reading: Bill Maurer, "Anthropology of Money", in: Annual Review of Anthropology 35(2006), pp.15–36; Gustav Peebles, "Anthropology of Credit and Debt", in: Annual Review of Anthropology 39(2010), pp. 225–40.

**Credit requirements:** Regular attendance, active participation in class, short presentation, several short essays, final paper.

### Nature and Culture as false dichotomy

**Course type:** MA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie/ Graduate Course  
MA Soziologische Theorie II / Sociological Theory II

**ECTS:** 4/8  
**ECTS:** 10

**Lecturer:** Dr. Acosta, Raul

**Description:** This course is open to students of two departments: sociology and history, and biology. It will combine seminars with open lectures by distinguished guests working in the frontiers of anthropology and biology. The seminars and lectures will be in English. Students will critically examine recent findings on the mutual influences between nature and culture from biological and anthropological perspectives and debate their relevance.

**Literature:** To be announced in the first session of the course.

### Memory Tourism

**Course type:** MA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie/ Graduate Course

**ECTS:** 4/8

**Lecturer:** Meise, Nils

**Description:** The course offers participating students insights in a branch of today's tourist industry, which utilizes the past as a tourist attraction. This imagined past can be present at different places, spaces, and in material objects, which serve as tools in the construction of the collective identity of a society and thus its sacred core. Hence, the vantage point of the course is primarily a cultural sociological one. Furthermore the course is designed to give an opportunity to get involved into ongoing (ethnographic) research in this field. In particular with one of the course's case studies, which is dealing with memory tourism in reference to Jan Hus in Germany and in the Czech Republic. As Jan Hus on one hand is a national hero of the Czech Republic and on the other hand the central figure of this year's commemoration of the Council of Constance. The main expected outcome of the course is that students will get a better understanding of different modes of memory tourism (in different countries). And a more general outcome is to prepare students for fieldwork (in any given field) with ethnographic methods.

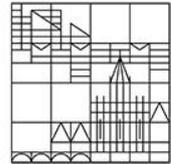
### Law in Latin America

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 4/8

**Lecturer:** Prof. Kirsch, Thomas & Prof. Sprenger, Guido

**Description:** Recent trends in the anthropological study of human-environment relations stress the relativity of the concept of "nature" and include non-human agents into concepts of collectivity, e.g. Bruno Latour, Philippe



Descola and Tim Ingold. This raises the question how these non-human beings are socially constituted and related to. The seminar explores the question how gift exchange theory, starting from Mauss' classic essay, could help to address the various dimensions of this issue. Gift exchange theory provides concepts of the emergence of personhood as well as the inclusion of non-humans. It accounts for hierarchical and asymmetric relationships. It does not assume the equivalence of the exchange items, but their complementarity. Could this framework be fruitfully applied to issues like relationships between hunters and their prey, agriculturalists and their fields or industrial societies and their relationships with "nature"?

The course will be taught in English. Participants should read Marcel Mauss: "The gift" (in the language of their choice) in advance. This course is a BaWü Seminar, open to master students of anthropology from other universities in Baden-Württemberg.

Please enroll by writing to sprenger@eth.uni-heidelberg.de until April 10th, 2015.

**Literature:** Participants should read Marcel Mauss: "The gift" (in the language of their choice) in advance

**Remarks:** This course is a BaWü Seminar, open to master students of anthropology from other universities in Baden-Württemberg

Please enroll by writing to:  
sprenger@eth.uni-heidelberg.de  
until April 10th, 2015.

Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Heidelberg, Albert-Ueberle-Str. 3-5, 69120 Heidelberg.

**Credit requirements:** Term paper

## Contemporary Social Theory

**Course type:** MA Seminar Soziologische Theorie/ Graduate Course Sociological Theory

**ECTS:** 4/8/10

**Lecturer:** Dr. Kwek, Dorothy

**Description:** Earlier, classical social theories tended to advance grand narratives of universalizable systems (e.g., Weber's analysis of authority, Durkheim's examination of religion, Hobbes' philosophy of sovereign power). Recent social theories, however, tend to focus on the terrible price exacted upon individuals in the perpetuation of such systems, as well as the everyday, small acts that can paradoxically resist and reproduce social formations. Where classical social theories sought to establish the legitimacy of the new social sciences by modeling them after the emerging natural sciences, these methods and their presuppositions have become the subject of critique in contemporary social theories. For these latter day theories seek not merely to describe, but to interrogate and challenge the reproduction of institutionalized knowledge, especially where it becomes a tool for exclusion, repression, oppression. This explains the ecumenical inclusivity of contemporary theories, the embrace of postcolonial, gender and queer perspectives, and the rekindled interest in non-modern (e.g. animist) viewpoints.

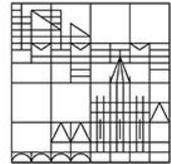
**Remarks:** The texts and discussions are in English. B.A. students may attend with the instructor's permission.

## Introduction to Network Analysis in R [block seminar]

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course

**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Schnettler, Sebastian



**Description:** This course offers a hands-on introduction to the concepts and methods of social network analysis (SNA) using the statistical programming environment R. Depending on research interests and data availability, researchers commonly look at networks of different sizes and degrees of complexity. In this class we will learn about tools to analyze these various types of networks. This will include egocentric networks (e.g. own family or own Facebook graph) and complete networks of various sizes: e.g. friendship ties in a school class, communication networks of an organization, and large-scale, complex networks like co-citation networks of scientists or interaction networks on social networking websites. The course will combine lecture/seminar style presentations of the instructor with lab sessions in which students work on empirical exercises using R.

**Literature:**

- Borgatti, Stephen P., Ajay Mehra, Daniel J. Brass, and Giuseppe Labianca. 2009. "Network Analysis in the Social Sciences." *Science* 323(5916):892–95.
- Kolaczyk, Eric D. and Gábor Csárdi. 2014. *Statistical Analysis of Network Data with R*. New York: Springer.

**Credit requirements:** Short presentation and empirical paper

## Missing Data

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

**Description:** Missing values is a problem in virtually every form of quantitative empirical research. In this course we will discuss various ways of dealing with this problem, with a strong emphasis on Multiple Imputation. The software that will be used in this course is Stata.

**Literature:**

- Paul D. Allison (2002) "Missing Data" Thousand Oaks: Sage.

## Graphics in Stata [block seminar]

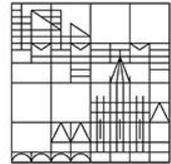
**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

**Description:** This course is for students who want to make the most out of graphs in Stata. Stata has very powerful graphics, but with power comes an elaborate syntax with lot of options and thus a lot of ways to get confused. In this course we will focus on building your graph step by step, and tips and tricks to create informative graphs.

**Literature:**

- Michael N. Michell (2012) "A Visual Guide to Stata Graphics", Third Edition. College Station, TX: Stata Press.



### [Interaction effects in linear and non-linear models \[block seminar\]](#)

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

**Description:** In this course I will discuss models in which the effect of one variable depends on one or more other variables, so called interaction effects. A big challenge with these models is the correct interpretation of the results. This problem is even harder in non-linear models, like logistic regression, as correct marginal effects are hard to compute and interpret. Moreover, an argument can be made that one cannot compare such effects across groups in non-linear models. The software used in this course will be Stata.

**Literature:**

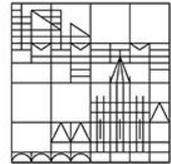
- M.L. Buis (2012) "Stata tip 106: With or without reference", The Stata Journal, 12(1), pp. 162-164.
- M.L. Buis (2010) "Stata tip 87: Interpretation of interactions in non-linear models", The Stata Journal, 10(2), pp. 305-308.

### [Problems in empirical research \(Master\)](#)

**Course type:** MA Kolloquium / Graduate Colloquium      **ECTS:** 0

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

**Description:** This seminar is open to all Master students who are doing or planning their own quantitative research and experience problems with data collection, data preparation, choosing the right analysis strategy, and writing up the results. Students who experience such problems can come to the seminar and we will work to find a solution.



## WINTER SEMESTER 2014/2015

### [A History of Intertwined Disciplines. Sociology and Anthropology](#)

**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie/ Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Dr. Acosta, Raul

**Description:**

Anthropology and sociology share a common history of disciplinary interest in the social. A historical overview of their entangled evolution allows us to better understand their common and complementary concerns, approaches, and theorizations. The definition and examination of culture, for example, is a foundational tenet of anthropology and of a branch of sociology. This course offers a window from the British tradition of anthropology into the intellectual genealogy of social studies that has been influential for current developments. Students will learn about individuals whose work is considered cornerstone for both disciplines. They will also become familiarized with the basic premises of anthropological and cultural sociological insights, by exploring concurrent theoretical, methodological and conceptual contributions. It is an introduction to anthropology and cultural sociology from a historical perspective.

### [Symbol and Space – A course incorporating writing practice](#)

**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie / Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Dr. Kwek, Dorothy

**Description:**

Space is never a blank canvas, a neutral material background; it is always imbued with significance both social and personal. This course examines the interplay between space and its symbolic dimensions. We will analyze diverse spatial structures, from metropolises to deserts, prisons to parks; multiple ways of traversing space, from the cross-oceanic voyages to urban perambulations; in so doing, we will attempt to understand how spaces mediate between our public performances and most intimate desires, and how spaces structure social relations—but also enable their transgression. \*Special Writing Component. This course incorporates sessions dedicated to academic writing. We especially address the problems faced by non-native speakers of English, and provide individualized feedback to help students become more proficient in academic English. In practice sessions course participants will learn to construct a compelling argument that effectively addresses an audience of international scholars.

**Literature:**

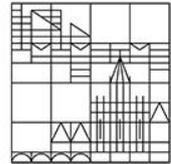
Langdon Winner, Michel Foucault, James Baldwin, Dolores Hayden, Ta-Nehisi Coates , & others.

**Remarks:**

Students who wish to do an exchange semester in a U.S., U.K., Canadian, or any other university where English is the language of instruction will find the course helpful.

**Prerequisites:**

A willingness to practice reading and writing in English, however imperfect you may think your own command of the language.



### Misfits, Rebels, Revolutionaries

**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie / Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Dr. Kwek, Dorothy

**Description:**

We tend to imagine social order as a relatively stable set of relations. But the countless crimes great and small, and the innumerable mundane petty infractions, testify to the magnitude of the discipline, coercion, and even violence that go into maintaining order. And many societies—such as those based on slavery—have been constituted at great cost to human lives and happiness. This course examines the friction between social orders and their misfits, outcasts, rebels, and revolutionaries; we will analyze multiple modes of resistance—symbolic and material, nonviolent or forceful, quotidian or revolutionary—, and theories of their justification, use, and extent. Readings are interdisciplinary and no prior training in any particular discipline is necessary.

**Literature:**

Franz Fanon, James C. Scott, Karl Marx, Mahatma Gandhi, and others.

**Remarks:** All students are welcome.

**Prerequisites:** None. Course readings and assignments in English.

### Popular Culture and Sociology: The TV Series "South Park" as a Tool and Data in Empirical Research

**Course type:** BA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie / Undergraduate Course

**ECTS:** 3/6

**Lecturer:** Meise, Nils

**Description:**

Sociology tries to maintain a monopoly in understanding the social world. We use empirical methods to decode the mundane world in order to get a deeper understanding of it. Popular culture is most of the time considered as data only. But sociological reflections are often one step behind of the present in e.g. blaming, scandalizing or showing us what went "wrong" or "right." Therefore a deeper understanding of current popular culture might be fruitful for us as sociologists. In this course we will have a closer look at the TV series "South Park" and its value for sociology. We will discuss one episode and classical sociological texts in each session. The focus of this course is on sociological theory, media studies and finding ways how to cope with data from popular culture in empirical research.

**Literature:**

Gournelos, Ted. 2009. Blasphemous Allusion. Coming of Age in South Park. Journal of Communication Inquiry 33 (2): 143-168. Nagy, Victoria. 2010. Motherhood, Stereotypes, and South Park. Women's Studies 39 (1): 1-17.

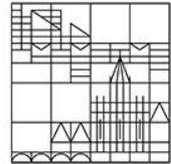
**Prerequisites:** Good command of English and active participation.

### Data Visualization in R

**Course type:** MA Projektseminar/ Graduate Project Seminar

**ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Schnettler, Sebastian



**Description:**

Data visualization is central to social scientific research and can be useful for researchers doing quantitative or qualitative empirical research. Furthermore, being able to distinguish good from bad data visualization is an important skill also for information recipients, be it in the form of scientific research, journalism, or Web sources. In recent years, the increasing availability of social scientific data sources, including "big data", and the development of new, and often free, software tools has dramatically increased the possibilities for data visualization. In this class we will use the statistical programming environment R to practice and apply various forms of data visualization and visualization of different types of data. This will include visualization of descriptive statistics and regression results, of life course sequences, and network data, including, e.g., word networks. We will also cover visualizing data on geographical maps using geocoded data. The program R is open source and can be freely downloaded at: <http://cran.r-project.org/>

**Literature:**

Healy, K., & Moody, J. (2014). Data Visualization in Sociology. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 40(1), doi:10.1146/annurev-soc-071312-145551. // Schwabish, J. A. (2014). An economist's guide to visualizing data. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28(1), 209–234.

**Prerequisites:** It is recommended that students have some prior programming experiences in at least one statistical software, although this doesn't have to be R.

**Target group:** Master and Ph.D. students in the social sciences.

**Modernity of Christianity; comparative perspective** [every two weeks]

**Course type:** MA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie/ Graduate Course      **ECTS:** 4/8

**Lecturer:** Dr. van Dijk, Rijk

**Description:**

This course draws attention to the complex history of Christianity and the manner in which – by invoking Max Weber – Christianity can be interpreted as producing a particular modernity. Students will be introduced to the anthropology of Christianity as a cultural comparative body of knowledge pertaining to 'the great transformation' (Hefner) and the 'conversion to modernity' (Comaroff & Comaroff) of local societies. By placing Africa in a comparative lens, the course offers an anthropological perspective on the Africanization of the Christian faith that led to a creative and modern variety of different local 'Christianities'. Students will learn about the social processes informing this development and the manner in which this variety of Christianities is interacting with economic and socio-political dimensions of life in Africa. In addition, particular attention will be paid to the fact that, originating from Africa, certain forms of Africanized Christianity have become present in Western societies, thereby shedding a new light on the role of faith in mediating the experience of local societies in a globalized world.

**Prerequisites:** compulsory reading - active participation - 1 presentation/discussion of assigned literature - writing of 2 summary abstracts - Semester paper of 7.500 words (PL students only - for those who need 8 ECTS).

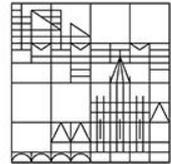
**Romance and (Ir)-Responsibilities; relationships, consumption and desire** [every two weeks]

**Course type:** MA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie/ Graduate Course      **ECTS:** 4/8

**Lecturer:** Dr. van Dijk, Rijk

**Description:**

This course explores the arrival of new models of social relations in that are largely the result of an increased



interaction of urban populations with globally circulating images of romantic ideals and patterns of conspicuous consumption that are marking modern notions of companionate love. The course offers an anthropologically informed analysis of the introduction and ensuing incorporation and contestation of these new romantic notions of relationships as well as of the ways in which the latter impact on generational structures. By offering a comparative perspective on Africa, it will be shown that the rise of new and young middle classes is interlocked with the rise of new consumptive desires, the emergence of new mediascapes through which global images of romantic love are being negotiated, the rise of new educational models through which new gender-parities are being constructed, and the rise of new concerns about the private and the intimate which in the (crowded/congested) realities of cities acquire unprecedented power. Yet, interestingly, this development is marred by an equally forceful concern with new responsibilities that this reshaping of relationships is bringing, namely responsibilities concerning the companionate success of the relationship, of the marital economy, of the obligations vis-a-vis the extended family, or those concerning the vitality of the body, sexual desire and gratification.

**Literature:**

Compulsory reading - active participation - 1 presentation/discussion of assigned literature - writing of 2 summary abstracts - Semester paper of 7.500 words (PL students only - for those who need 8 ECTS).

**Social Dynamics**

**Course type:** MA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie / Graduate Course

**ECTS:** 4/8

**Lecturer:** Prof. Junge, Kay

**Description:**

The notion of equilibrium went out of fashion in sociology almost half a century ago. Along with its disappearance sociological theory gave up not only explaining social stability, but only a little later also explaining the course and direction of social change. Instead it lived happily simply by labeling social phenomena in unusual ways. Of course, there have been many intellectual and political reasons for the declining attraction of the notion of equilibrium. A particularly good, though only vaguely articulated one, consists in the observation that local or individual adaptations do not necessarily lead to some global equilibrium, not even in the long run. In this seminar we will concentrate on different ways of modeling the adaptive or learning dynamics underlying behavioral change to see where specific adaptive mechanisms or learning strategies might lead to when placed into some prototypical social setting. We will first take a short look at some more or less classical papers, but eventually and in the main follow recent publications of Brian Skyrms in order to account for the not necessarily stable emergence, but also for the cyclical and perhaps even chaotic dynamics of social life.

**Literature:**

Brian Skyrms, Social Dynamics, Oxford: Oxford U.P. 2014.

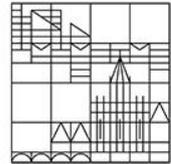
**Work flow of data analysis**

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate-PhD Advanced Research and Methods Course **ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

**Description:**

This course is about methods that allow you to work efficiently and accurately when you analyze data using Stata. Although it does not deal with specific statistical techniques, it discusses the steps that you go through with any type of data analysis. These steps include planning your work, documenting your activities, creating and verifying



variables, generating and presenting statistical analyses, replicating findings, and archiving what you have done. These combined issues make up the workflow of data analysis. A good workflow is essential for replication of your work, and replication is essential for good science.

**Literature:**

J. Scott Long (2009) "The Workflow of Data Analysis Using Stata". College Station, TX: Stata Press.

**Target group:** Students from the Graduate School Decision Sciences and other PhD students who intend to start their own research project using Stata.

### Quantitative data analysis

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

**Description:**

This course aims at giving an overview of statistical techniques commonly used in social science research. The first part of the course will be used to refresh basic knowledge, such as cross tabulations, correlation and linear regression. The second part will introduce more advanced topics such as logistic regression, multiple imputation, fixed and random effects models. This course will have an applied focus: the different techniques will be introduced within the context of real social science research.

**Literature:**

Donald J. Treiman (2009) "Quantitative Data Analysis: Doing Social Research to Test Ideas", San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

**Prerequisites:** One course introductory statistics.

**Target group:** Students from the Master Social Economic Data Analysis and other Master programs who wish to get an overview of the statistical techniques out there, and how they are used in real social science research.

### Problems in empirical research

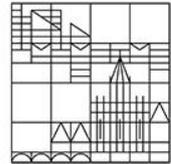
**Course type:** MA Kolloquium / Graduate Colloquium      **ECTS:** 0

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

**Description:**

This seminar is open to all Master students who are doing or planning their own quantitative research and experience problems with data collection, data preparation, choosing the right analysis strategy, and writing up the results. Students who experience such problems can come to the seminar and we will work to find a solution.

**Target group:** Students from Social Economic Data Analysis and other Master studies who are preparing or doing their own research project.



## Categorical data analysis

**Course type:** MA Advanced Research and Methods Course

**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

### **Description:**

This course shows you efficient and effective ways to use regression models for categorical and count outcomes. A key part of these models is that they are nonlinear, and consequently the simple interpretations that are possible in linear models are no longer appropriate. No single method of interpretation can fully describe the relationships among the independent variables and the outcome. Rather, a series of postestimation explorations are needed to uncover the most important aspects of these relationships. We will use a book about data analysis which does not focus on a formal treatment of statistical models. Instead, this course will focus on using Stata to estimate and interpret models for binary, ordinal, nominal, and count outcomes.

### **Literature:**

J. Scott Long and Jeremy Freese (2006) "Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables Using Stata", Second Edition. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge of linear regression.

**Target group:** Students from the Master Social Economic Data Analysis and other Master studies.

## Survival Analysis

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course

**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Buis, Maarten

### **Description:**

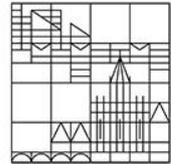
Survival analysis (a.k.a. event history analysis, duration analysis or transition analysis) has been used to investigate durations, e.g. how long people stay unemployed, how long a cancer patient lives, or how long it takes a country to ratify a treaty. What these examples have in common is that they all look at how long it takes until a certain event occurs. In this course I will discuss the various challenges and opportunities that this type of data offer. The focus of this course will be to develop an intuition of the logic behind the different techniques rather than formal proofs, and on practical knowledge on how to use these techniques using Stata.

### **Literature:**

Mario Cleves, William Gould, Roberto G. Gutierrez, and Yulia V. Marchenko (2010) "An Introduction to Survival Analysis Using Stata", Third Edition. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge of linear regression.

**Target group:** Students from the Master Social Economic Data Analysis and other Master studies.



## Multivariate Procedures for Causal Inference

**Course type:** MA Fortgeschrittenes Forschungs- und Methodenseminar/ Graduate Advanced Research and Methods Course      **ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Seng, Kilian

### **Description:**

The course will cover multivariate procedures of data analysis for causal inference. Besides the basics of causal inference the following topics will be covered: - multivariate regressions for discrete and continuous variables - matching estimators - panel data analysis - multilevel analysis - models for endogeneity Further topics can be introduced on request. The participants will present their own research project applying one of the methods mentioned above during class and hand in a research paper. Software: STATA.

### **Literature:**

Cameron, Colin / Pravin Trivedi (2010): *Microeconometrics Using Stata*. Stata Press. Morgan, Stephen / Christopher Winship (2007): *Counterfactuals and Causal Inference*. In: *Methods and Principles for Social Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Shadish, William / Thomas Cook / Donald Campbell (2002): *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Belmont: Wadsworth.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge of statistics and empirical methods as well as STATA.

**Credit requirements:** presentation and term paper.

## Borders and Borderlands Studies

**Course type:** MA Seminar Spezielle Soziologie/ Graduate Course      **ECTS:** 4/8

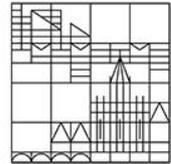
**Lecturer:** Dr. Schindel, Estela

### **Description:**

The course offers an introduction into the main topics and tendencies of the Borders and Borderlands Studies, which in the last four decades have become an increasingly consolidated area of research within the social sciences. In this context the study of borders has developed from the classical geopolitical definition (based on the Westphalian model of national sovereignty) into rather multi- and transnational inquiries about the multi-layered, disputed and performative character of borders in the contemporary world. These efforts gave place to the coining of terms such as borderland, b/ordering practices, borderscape or borderwork as well as to epistemological reflections conveyed by notions like border thinking and border as method. After a critical review of the way in which borders have been differently conceptualized and analyzed in the social sciences (where the research on the US-Mexican border has played a leading role), and a glimpse into the contributions and understanding of borders from the cultural and semiotic perspectives as well as some approaches from the artistic field, we will closely analyze the emergence and present of the EU border regime and the main critical challenges posed by it.

### **Literature:**

Wilson, Thomas and Hastings Donnan (Eds.) 2012. *A Companion to Border Studies*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.



## SUMMER SEMESTER 2014

### Culture and social stratification

**Course type:** BA Seminar Basismodul / Undergraduate basic course – Basic module (BA 1st – 2nd year)  
**ECTS:** 5

**Lecturer:** Dr. Tilmann Heil

**Description:** People increasingly migrate in increasingly smaller numbers to more and more places around the world. Many meet in 'global cities' in which a cosmopolitan self-understanding and habitus coexists with indifference and anonymity, exclusion and social tensions. Can this be only about cultural or national, linguistic or religious differentiation of urban populations? To what extent is culturally defined social stratification (re)produced in large cities? How do people deal with it? In contrast to positively perceived political concepts such as multiculturalism, this seminar raises the question of the socio-economic dimensions of cultural diversity. Participants will get to know conceptual issues and topics of urban anthropology and sociology, migration and globalization research and learn to question concepts such as diversity and difference critically. This seminar will be held in English.

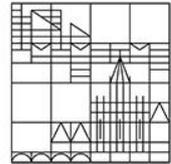
**Literature:** will be announced in the first lecture.

**Remarks:** Please register for this course by the 15/04/2014 via [tilmann.heil@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:tilmann.heil@uni-konstanz.de).

**Prerequisites:** It is expected that you participate actively, read and discuss in English and complete the requirements for a StL (Studienleistung) or PL (Prüfungsleistung).

**Credit requirements:** short class presentation, forum entries plus book review and term paper.

**Target group:** Students interested in qualitative social sciences and anthropology.



## Activism - insights into an anthropology of agency

**Course type:** BA Seminar Basismodul / Undergraduate basic course – Basic module (BA 1st – 2nd year)  
**ECTS:** 5

**Lecturer:** Dr. Astrid Bochow

**Description:** In the past fifteen years activism has proved to be powerful tool for local people to act outside of or crosscutting formal political institutions. The case of activism gives evidence of new social spaces and tools for (public) action that are based on new communication technologies, the impact of international institutions as well as a growing public consciousness of civil and environmental rights, amongst others. Discussing empirical examples of activism such as suicide bombing, religious protest movements, eco-activism and human rights activism the course aims at introducing into these social spaces of agency and wishes to inspire students to conceptualize individual and collective agency.

**Literature:** Stammer, Neil, and Catharine Eschle. "Social Movements and Global Activism." In *Global Activism, Global Media*, edited by Wilma De Jong, Martin Shaw and Neil Stammers, 50-68: Pluto Press (UK), 2005.

**Remarks:** The course will be held in English but each session will allow space to repeat core terms and concepts in German.

**Credit requirements:** term paper.

## Gender identities in Muslim societies: recent anthropological research

**Course type:** BA Seminar Aufbaumodul / Undergraduate advanced course – Advanced module (BA 2nd – 3rd year)  
**ECTS:** 7

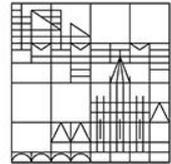
**Lecturer:** Inken Wiese

**Description:** Political discourses and the media transport a picture of Islam which ignores the cultural pluralism in different states with large Muslim populations. The seminar uses the example of "gender" to increase our insights into this pluralism. It asks how religion is deployed to assign different social roles to men and women. How men and women deal with these roles in their daily lives and their socio-political activities and how they question them. After a short repetition of methods of cultural anthropological research the course focuses on the analysis of anthropological texts and ethnographic films on issues of gender. This will enable us to reflect upon how ethnographic methods allow us to better describe and analyze the social and cultural complexity of Muslim societies.

**Literature:** Selection: Kreinath, Jens (Hr.), *The anthropology of Islam Reader*, 2012; Mahmood, Saba, *Politics of Piety: the Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*, 2005; Schielke, Samuli: "Being good in Ramadan: ambivalence, fragmentation, and the moral self in the lives of young Egyptians", in: *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 15(2009) Special issue 1, S. 24-54; Inhorn, Marcia Claire 2012: *The New Arab Man*; O'Rourke, Jaqueline 2012: *Representing Jihad: The Appearing and Disappearing Radical*; Stern, Jessica, *Denial: A Memoir of Terror*, 2010; Deeb, Lara: "Piety politics and the role of a transnational feminist analysis", in: *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 15(2009) Special issue 1, S. 112-126; Cooper, Barbara: "The strength in the song", in: *Social Text* 60(1999), S. 87-109.

**Remarks:** In case all interested students who are present for the first session are native German speakers or have an advanced command of German, the course might be taught in German.

**Credit requirements:** short class presentation, active participation, regular attendance, mid-term papers, term



paper.

**Target group:** B.A. students of sociology, students of gender studies.

### Ecology and society

**Course type:** BA Seminar Aufbaumodul / Undergraduate advanced course – Advanced module (BA 2nd – 3rd year)  
**ECTS:** 7

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorothy Kwek

**Description:** There are no simple solutions to the current ecological crises. More than technological quick-fixes, they demand profound social and political change. Yet at the same time, there is a deep disconnect between the urgency of the problems and the carelessness of the masses. In other words, there are deep social, psychological, and intellectual resistances that prevent us from adequately tackling the mess we are in. This exploratory course focuses on the intersections of ecology and society. We will analyze, with the aid of historical and empirical examples, relations between Nature and culture, politics and ecology; we will examine the conceptual challenges posed by new ecological theories to entrenched habits of thinking about politics, ethics, and human existence. The course draws from a wide range of interdisciplinary material, and no prior training in a particular discipline is necessary.

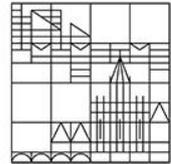
### Welfare state, demography and social stratification

**Course type:** BA Projektseminar / Undergraduate project course – Advanced module (BA 2nd – 3rd year)  
**ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Sebastian Schnettler & Kilian Seng

**Description:** This class will provide hands-on experience in data analysis using data from the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP). A particular focus will be on questions of social inequality. Selected waves of the ISSP are focused on this topic and thus allow to examine patterns of social inequality in an international comparison and changes of these patterns over time. In addition to social inequality, the substantive focus of the class will be on demographic processes and welfare policies that are associated with the stratification system in fundamental ways. The methodological focus of the class is on cross-sectional analysis and comparative static. Extensions to multilevel modelling are possible.

**Credit requirements:** Class presentation and paper.



## New media & society

**Course type:** BA Projektseminar / Undergraduate project course – Advanced module (BA 2nd – 3rd year)  
**ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Vanessa Dirksen & Dr. Thilo Raufer

**Description:** We live in a matrix of new media and other information and communication technologies. We are cyborgs, netizens, prosumers, bloggers, facebookers or networked selves in a world that can be seen as a "mediapolis: a comprehensively mediated public space where media underpin and overarch the experiences and expressions of everyday life. (...) We are living a media life" (Deuze 2011). We use mobile electronic devices, wear google glasses, scan our bodies, present ourselves in social networks, offer our private data to companies, are continuously monitored, and are guided through the world by increasingly sophisticated software that amalgamize our virtual and our non-virtual lives.

However much we might take the pervasiveness of digital media in everyday life for granted, research still needs to be done: „The fact that digital media culturally matters is undeniable but showing how, where, and why it matters is necessary to push against peculiarly narrow presumptions about the universality of digital experience“ (Coleman 2010).

In this project seminar, we explore our mediatized social world and the shifts and changes on the personal, societal level, and political level that are related to new media. The seminar starts off with the discussion of theoretical aspects of new media and society. These sessions are followed by sessions on methodological approaches to the empirical investigation of new media and 'cybersociality' (i.e., virtual methods). The second part of the seminar revolves around the discussion of a large variety of case studies. These include: social networks, video games, telepresence technologies, modern day imaging technologies, biotechnologies, surveillance technologies, augmented realities, etc. Last, students will have to develop and conduct their own empirical research project on a topic of their choice during the semester and to present and discuss their research proposals and first findings in the third part of the seminar in class.

### **Literature:**

- Deuze, Mark (2011): Media Life, in: Media, Culture, & Society 33, S.137-148
- Coleman, E. Gabriella (2010): Ethnographic Approaches to Digital Media, in: Annual Review of Anthropology, Vol. 39: 487-505

**Prerequisites:** curiosity in fast developing topics.

**Credit requirements:** class presentation and term paper, active participation in class and contributions to discussion.

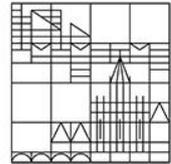
**Target group:** Advanced students at the BA-level.

## Framed by gender

**Course type:** BA Seminar Aufbaumodul / Undergraduate advanced course – Advanced module (BA 2nd – 3rd year)  
**ECTS:** 5

**Lecturer:** Dr. Christiane Gross

**Description:** The course is based on Ridgeway's book "Framed by gender" (2011) and will be held in English. Ridgeway offers explanations for persisting gender inequalities in developed countries. She presents social mechanisms which are responsible for the reproduction of gender inequalities. These mechanisms work out even in societies with strong efforts to achieve equal opportunities for men and women. Ridgeway discusses research findings from different disciplines including sociology and psychology



**Literature:** Ridgeway, Cecilia L. (2011): Framed by gender. How gender inequality persists in the modern world. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Credit requirements:** Class presentation and term paper.

**Target group:** BA Gender Studies, BA Sociology.

## [Analysing Experimental Data with R](#)

**Course type:** Tutorium / tutorial

**Lecturer:** Maik Bieleke

### **Description:**

The tutorial will provide an introduction in how to analyse experimental data with the statistical software R. In the first part, the main functionality of R will be covered: the compilation and manipulation of data structures, data preparation, and data visualization. No previous programming knowledge is required for this part. The second part of the tutorial will then focus on the implementation of common statistical analyses: e.g., correlations, location and dispersion tests, tests for categorical data, ANOVA, and regression. Basic statistical knowledge is required for this part. The open source software "RStudio" will be used in the tutorial. Bringing an own laptop is recommended but not obligatory.

### **Credit requirements:**

One midterm (30%) and one final exam (70%).

NOTE: PhD-Students of the Graduate School of Decision Sciences cannot receive course credits for participating in this tutorial. Bachelor and master students, however, earn 5 credit points for successfully completing the tutorial.

### **Learning Objectives:**

Learning effective and efficient methods for the numerical and graphical processing of experimental data in R, as well as the implementation of descriptive and inferential data analysis.

## [Classics of social theory](#)

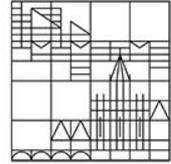
**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorothy Kwek

**Description:** This course introduces the key texts and ideas that are the foundations of sociological thinking. Karl Marx once wrote, "Philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it." But first, we have to understand how the world works; we have to systematically analyze its structures and processes, uncover the hidden assumptions behind our beliefs and evaluations, and make sure the alternatives we propose are viable. The study of social theory provides us with the critical and conceptual tools to do so. The course will focus on three thematic clusters: 1. Forming societies, communities and groups; 2. Power and the individual; 3. Everyday social practices. Texts and discussions in English.

**Literature:** Includes, among others, Benedict Anderson, Michel Foucault, Marcel Mauss, Georg Simmel, and Max Weber.



## Ethnographies on the Topic of Health and Inequality

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Astrid Bochow

**Description:** In public discourses poverty and social iniquity are often portrayed by children with bloated bellies caused by starvation and dirty hospitals. In fact, poor living conditions, bad hygiene and living in violent conflicts are often accompanied by poor health. Paradoxically a 'too much' of food and medication may also cause bad health. The systemic relation between social inequality, poverty/wealth and disease are thus multi-layered; and poor health is often best to be understood at the intersection between medical technologies and innovation, politics and economics. The course aims to unpack the multiple connections between political deprivation, material exploitation and social marginalization in the study of health and will discuss these using cutting edge ethnographies on medical tourism, malaria and HIV/AIDS, reproductive technologies, and civil rights movements.

**Literature:** As introduction: Nguyen, V.-K. and K. Peschard (2003). "Anthropology, Inequality, and Disease: A Review." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32(1): 447-474. Further literature to be announced in the first session.

**Prerequisites:** Willingness to read texts in English.

**Credit requirements:** term paper.

## Longitudinal analysis of family trends and processes

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8

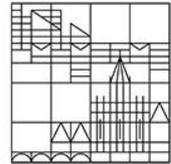
**Lecturer:** Dr. Pia Schober

**Description:** The seminar provides an overview of how questions of family change in European societies can be investigated from a longitudinal perspective. It will provide theoretical and methodological insights into the challenges of investigating family trends and period effects, such as the economic crisis, on family composition and behaviour. Furthermore, it will introduce the life course perspective and how it can be applied to analysing family processes, such as the transition to parenthood or the intergenerational transmission of family behaviour. After an introduction to theoretical and methodological approaches which are specific to longitudinal studies, students will be asked to choose a family issue or question of their own interest and analyse it using the Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP). The SOEP is a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households in Germany, which have been interviewed annually since 1984. Some of the many topics include household composition, employment, earnings, leisure, health and satisfaction indicators.

**Prerequisites:** Advance registration required! All interested students must register for the course by 18th of April 2014. Otherwise the course may not take place. Please contact: pschober@diw.de.

To be able to analyse the SOEP data for their own project, students should have some basic knowledge of statistical analysis (i.e. cross-tables, linear regression models). The course will work with the software STATA. An introduction to the software will be given at the beginning of the course. Students will be asked to present preliminary results of their project towards the end of the seminar and submit a project paper (3,000 words).

**Credit requirements:** class presentation and term paper.



## Security

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Prof. Thomas Kirsch

**Description:** Among the multifarious transformation processes that can presently be observed worldwide, there is probably hardly any phenomenon which is as momentous as the one having to do with questions of 'security'. The so-called war against terrorism and the boundary-drawing reactions against refugee movements to Europe are just two examples for the increasing thematisation of threat scenarios against which security measures are claimed to be necessary. Against the backdrop of readings of classical texts on 'security' and 'surveillance', the course deals with a broad variety of empirical examples of security discourses and practices, in so doing, putting particular emphasis on what has been called 'securitization' – that is, speech acts which declare an issue to be a 'security issue', thus (allegedly) putting it outside of the political realm.

**Prerequisites:** Willingness to read texts in English.

## Social dynamics and belief dynamics

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Kay Junge

**Description:** In this seminar we will closely follow recent publications of Brian Skyrms and Wolfgang Spohn on the dynamics of dispositions and beliefs in order to account for the emergence of communication and meaning and the growth and change of social structures.

### **Literature:**

-WOLFGANG SPOHN, *The Laws of Belief: Ranking Theory and its Philosophical Applications*, Oxford 2012

-BRIAN SKYRMS, *Social Dynamics*, Oxford 2014.

**Remarks:** Most of the sessions will concentrate on a close reading of relevant papers or relevant book chapters.

**Credit requirements:** class presentation and term paper.

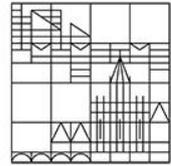
## Sociology of Science

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Vanessa Dirksen

**Description:** This course is about science in and as society. Science as society refers to the social aspects of the production of scientific knowledge. We will in this part of the course ask how scientific knowledge and scientists are shaped by broader social, cultural, and political forces. How are scientific facts made? How do knowledge claims come about? What role do instruments and experience play in scientific experiments? How do scientists deal with uncertainty and non-knowledge? How do gender, race or cultural background affect scientific vision? Science in society refers to the increasingly important role that science plays in social structural arrangements, social change, and social interaction. For example, how does science play a role in how we perceive the environment or in how we make decisions about guilt and innocence in courts of law? How does scientific knowledge involve different kinds of expertise and how is it put into practice as public policy? With examples such as controversies over cold fusion, global warming, the practices of genetic testing and brain imaging, this course



will introduce you to the field of the sociology of science, a focus area within Science and Technology Studies (STS).

**Credit requirements:** class presentation and term paper, active participation in class and contributions to discussion.

## Mixed Methods

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Kilian Seng

**Description:** the problem of making plausible and well-grounded causal inferences pertains to any empirical study, irrespective of its design. In large-N-studies we may model the relationship between variables, but often we are uncertain about the validity and causal interpretation of our findings. In small-N-studies we may gain insight about processes and plausible causal mechanisms, but we face problems to generalize from it. Therefore, Mixed-methods and nested analyses have been proposed to remedy this problem, thus adding, testing or refining evidence for causality in complementary investigations at the macro- and micro-levels. There are, however, several practical problems linked to such designs in comparative studies, as for instance the data availability and the required depth of analysis.

The course will provide an overview of existing designs and their applications. In addition, the state of the art and the value added of such designs will be discussed.

The participants will present their own research project applying one of the methods mentioned above during class and hand in a research paper.

### **Literature:**

- Kelle, Udo (2008): Die Integration qualitativer und quantitativer Methoden in der empirischen Sozialforschung, Springer VS.
- Bergman, Manfred Max (2008): Advances in Mixed Methods Research. Theories and Applications, Los Angeles: Sage.
- Tashakkori, Abbas (2003): Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social & Behavioral Research. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage.

## Colloquium: Seminar in Social and Cultural Anthropology

**Course type:** Colloquium

**ECTS:** 0

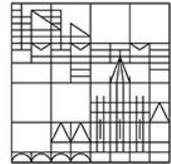
**Lecturer:** Prof. Thomas Kirsch

**Description:** Seminar in Social- and Cultural Anthropology. The course is devoted to (a) the discussion of research projects and (b) the close reading and discussion of selected 'modern classics' in social and cultural anthropology.

**Literature:** More details on the course will be provided in the first session.

**Prerequisites:** New participants are kindly requested to approach Prof. Thomas G. Kirsch well in advance.

**Target group:** PhD. Students; Master Students with invitation



## English for Students of Political Sciences, Social Sciences or International Relations (SLI)

**Course type:** Kurs / course

**ECTS:** 3

**Lecturer:** Jan Howe

**Description:**

This course offers students the opportunity to develop their English skills in discussion, writing and presenting. Political topics will be introduced by the teacher and students. These will be discussed and useful discussion phrases developed. Academic writing skills will also be developed through vocabulary worksheets and through an analysis and application of English clausal elements; this will allow students to write in a more academic manner.

**Remarks:**

Students should be able to use English confidently at B2 and be prepared to contribute in discussions.

**Prerequisites:**

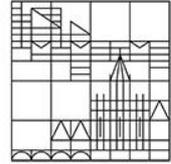
Students should be able to use English confidently at B2.

**Credit requirements:**

Students will be summarily assessed by a paired speaking task (using discussion phrases) and by a 200-250 word written task.

**Target group:**

Students who are studying Political or Social Sciences or International Relations.



## WINTER SEMESTER 2013/2014

### Demography and Stratification of European Societies

**Course type:** Vorlesung / lecture course (undergraduate)

**ECTS:** 5

**Lecturer:** Dr. Sebastian Schnettler

**Description:**

In this lecture I will provide a detailed and comparative overview of the social structure(s) and change(s) of contemporary European societies. Specifically, we will look at institutional differences between European nation states and the European Union. And we will look at the relative distribution of individuals and resources in the domains of family, education, labour market, welfare state, economy and demography. A particular focus will be on describing existing social inequalities and possible explanations for them. We will also try to answer the question as to how the recent global financial crisis has affected European societies. In addition to a more classical focus on social structure that looks at the distribution of individuals and resources, we will also take a holistic look at social structure from a new complex science perspective. This new view is made possible by the increasing availability of big data from social networking and media sites like Twitter, Facebook, Yahoo, and others. These data allow a global view on how people are connected to and communicate with each other. They also provide additional insight into demographic processes and social stratification that have previously been limited by more or less developed national registration systems and statistical offices. This lecture will provide useful background knowledge for students aiming at different careers, including careers in research, business, politics, and international organizations. Furthermore, students will be equipped with useful tools and information about relevant data sources and thus become experts for conducting self-guided analyses of social and organizational structures and processes in their future careers.

**Literature:**

- Stefan Immerfall & Göran Therborn (2011): Handbook of European Societies. Social Transformations in the 21st Century. New York: Springer.
- Steffen Mau & Roland Verwiebe (2010): European Societies: Mapping Structure and Change. Bristol: Policy Press. (Also available in German as: Mau/Verwiebe 2009: Die Sozialstruktur Europas. Konstanz: UTB.)

**Target Group:** BA students in sociology or other social science with aspirations for careers in social research, business, politics, or international organizations.

### Everyday living together with cultural difference

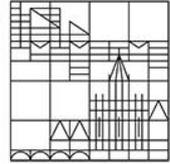
**Course type:** BA Seminar Basismodul / Undergraduate basic course – Basic module (BA 1st – 2nd year)

**ECTS:** 3 / 5

**Lecturer:** Dr. Tillmann Heil

**Description:**

How do people live together with differences beyond the political statements of intention concerning integration and equality? Or: How do people negotiate diversity in the everyday? In this seminar we will provide the basis for the study of everyday practices and intercultural negotiation processes. We will use examples of ethnographic studies of 'ordinary people' who are culturally different. We will ask how they tactically and creatively cope with everyday structural restrictions and how they understand their actions and contexts. Conceptually, we will think political and elite concepts like cosmopolitanism, integration and equality 'from below'. Participants will learn to critically engage with various perspectives of understanding and conceptualising everyday practices as an



important field of study. The focus will be on current global and local diversification processes.

**Literature:** will be provided in the first session.

**Prerequisites:** to read and possibly discuss in English will be expected.

**Credit requirements:** presentation and term paper.

### **Other Forms of Knowledge: Cultural Anthropology and Epistemology**

**Course type:** BA Seminar Basismodul / Undergraduate basic course – Basic module (BA 1st – 2nd year)

**ECTS:** 3 / 5

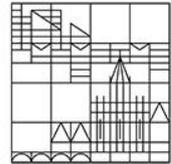
**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Thomas Kirsch

**Description:**

Research in social and cultural anthropology can be understood as an attempt to convert en-counters with alternative forms of knowledge into insights into previously unknown logics of knowledge and new forms of generating knowledge. With a view to selected topics from con-temporary research in social and cultural anthropology, the course explores the conditions of possibility and the modalities of this process.

**Literature:** More details on the course will be provided in the first session.

**Target Group:** BA-Students (Sociology) and Gender Studies



## Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

**Course type:** BA Seminar Basismodul / Undergraduate basic course – Basic module (BA 1st – 2nd year)

**ECTS:** 3 / 5

**Lecturer:** Dr. Vanessa Dirksen

### **Description:**

Risk and uncertainty are important issues in a growing number of societal areas, including technology, environment, health, crime, and finance. In compliance with Beck's idea that increasing awareness of risks fundamentally shapes modern society, risk forms a cornerstone of contemporary social/cultural theory. The course, therefore, starts off with discussing various notions of risk stemming from theoretical traditions of cultural theory (Douglas, Tulloch/Lupton), risk society and reflexive modernization (Beck, Giddens) and governmentality (Foucault). The course, furthermore, covers some key topics in the sociology of risk and uncertainty such as the different epistemic cultures in the evaluation of risks (e.g., technocratic decision-making processes versus non-rational strategies to manage uncertainties) and the socio-cultural production of risk by the media (e.g., on the financial crisis, the 2009 flu pandemic H1N1, terrorism).

**Remarks:** The language of the lectures as well as the course reading is English. Students may however reply and initiate discussions in German, present their work in German as well as write their term papers in German.

**Credit requirements:** Reading responses; a written final paper.

## Sociology of Technology

**Course type:** BA Seminar Aufbaumodul / Undergraduate advanced course – Advanced module (BA 2nd – 3rd year)

**ECTS:** 3 / 7

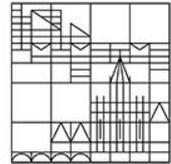
**Lecturer:** Dr. Vanessa Dirksen

### **Description:**

Technology is everywhere and even if we tend to take it for granted it is easy to see that it influences our lives. But how do our lifestyles, our values and social norms influence technology in the first place? Where do new technologies come from, how are they picked up and used, and why are they shaped the way they are? Addressing these questions with examples from the bicycle to the computer, from birth control to brain imaging, this course provides an introduction to the important field of the Social Studies of Technology and will expose you to a variety of ways of thinking about the reciprocal relationships between technology and society. Altogether, the seminar will serve the following objective: to develop your sensibilities and critical thinking for recognizing technology's pervasive presence (past and present) and of technology's significant societal influence.

**Remarks:** The language of the lectures as well as the course reading is English. Students may however reply and initiate discussions in German, present their work in German as well as write their term papers in German.

**Credit requirements:** Reading responses (Referat); a written final paper.



## [The Barbarians are Coming! Theories on Race and Postcoloniality](#)

**Course type:** BA Seminar Basismodul / Undergraduate basic course – Basic module (BA 1st – 2nd year)

**ECTS:** 3 / 5

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorothy Kwek

### **Description:**

Through a survey of 'race,' racism, its historical roots and contemporary consequences, colonial and postcolonial legacies, and finally, marginal and outsider figures such as the migrant, foreigner, refugee, we will examine how figures of the Other and Outsider shape collective and political identities on the one hand, and on the other hand, the experiences of those made to inhabit these roles. Readings and seminars are in English.

### **Literature:**

Readings include works by Sara Ahmed, Hannah Arendt, Franz Fanon, Sigmund Freud, Neville Hoad, Edward Said, Georg Simmel.

## [Multivariate procedures for causal inference](#)

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8 / 6

**Lecturer:** Kilian Seng

**Description:** The course will cover multivariate procedures of data analysis for causal inference. Besides the basics of causal inference the following topics will be covered:

- multivariate regressions for discrete and continuous variables
- matching estimators
- panel data analysis
- multilevel analysis
- models for endogeneity

Further topics can be introduced on request.

The participants will present their own research project applying one of the methods mentioned above during class and hand in a research paper.

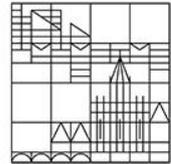
Software: STATA

### **Literature:**

- Cameron, Colin / Pravin Trivedi (2010): Microeconometrics Using Stata. Stata Press.
- Morgan, Stephen / Christopher Winship (2007): Counterfactuals and Causal Inference. In: Methods and Principles for Social Research. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Shadish, William / Thomas Cook / Donald Campbell (2002): Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference. Belmont: Wadsworth.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge of statistics and empirical methods as well as STATA.

**Credit requirements:** Presentation and term paper.



## Applied Introduction to R

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8 / 4

**Lecturer:** Dr. Sebastian Schnettler

**Description:** In this course I will provide an introduction to the R language and environment for statistical analysis and visualization of data. R provides users with a wide variety of statistical and graphical tools and its user-base constantly helps to extend its functionality through add-on packages. Currently, over 3000 such add-on packages exist, making R a flexible tool for a wide variety of research purposes and one that is easily integrated with other, open source tools for the statistical analysis and visualization of data. Apart from a general introduction to the R environment and language, this course will teach how the following tasks can be achieved with R: data management (including import/export from/to other statistical software packages), plotting and analyzing data descriptively, linear regression analysis and diagnostics, generalized linear models, multilevel regression, network analysis and visualization, writing functions for achieving higher task efficiency, and advanced data visualization. Additional topics may be covered upon request of participants.

**Literature:** Zuur, A., E. Ieno, & E. Meesters (2009). A beginner's guide to R. Dordrecht: Springer.

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of a course in quantitative research methods and knowledge of at least introductory-level statistics, including regression analysis. Experience with other statistical software is not required but recommended. Especially prior knowledge of programming or reading and writing syntax of statistical software will be useful.

**Target group:** Master and doctoral students in the social sciences.

## Diasporic and Transnational mobilities: exploring African connections in a globalizing world

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8 / 4

**Lecturer:** Dr. Rijk van Dijk

### **Description:**

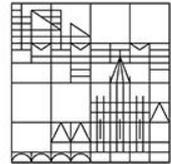
While globality has emerged as an idiom of seemingly unfettered travel and connectivity, the social science study of the process of globalization is demonstrating a multitude of different forms of mobility, captured by a range of different terms – migration, diaspora, transnationalism and so on – yet each marked by a varied experience of the flow and closure of the lived realities of a today's world of borders, identity politics, strangerhood and cultural sentiments. Taking an African perspective in which there is a long record of the flows and closures that the experience of the global has brought, this course examines when and how diaspora and transnational mobilities are produced and experienced by communities at home and abroad, connections across space and time are claimed in terms of geographical locations and memory-work, and multifaceted transnational engagements from Africa with the West have evolved. The course will pay particular attention to the ways in which these movements are produced by a circulation of people, objects, and images, especially focusing on emerging diasporic religious social fields which appear highly relevant for the individual navigation of these (often contested) forms of mobility.

**Literature:** will follow in due course

**Remarks:** course is Africa-focused

**Credit requirements:** Active participation, study of compulsory reading, class presentation & writing of paper

**Target group:** Master Students interested in anthropology, students fluent in English.



## Foucault in Africa: the Minutiae of Power and the Culture of Governmentality

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8 / 4

**Lecturer:** Dr. Rijk van Dijk

### **Description:**

While Foucault's ideas concerning governmentality and the rise of bio-power in the European history has shaped our understanding of the governing of sexuality, the body, reproductive behavior and their internalization by individuals, much of Foucault's thinking has been considered problematic when being transposed to other sociocultural contexts such as can be found on the African continent. Yet, African societies have recently seen the varied and wide-ranging introduction of governmental modes of bio-power, some of which are highly effective in instilling behavioral norms in the domains of health, sexuality and reproduction. The course explores the concept of bio-power and its rise in European institutional history. In the second part, the course analyzes governmentality on the African continent by looking at the rise of institutions such as the school, the clinic, the nation and its (judicial) systems. In the third and final part, we will discuss both the advantages and limitations of Foucauldian interpretations in a non-European context

**Literature:** will follow in due course

**Remarks:** course is Africa-focused

**Credit requirements:** Active participation, study of compulsory reading, class presentation & writing of paper

**Target group:** Master Students interested in anthropology, students fluent in English.

**Literature:**

## New Media and the Body

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8 / 4

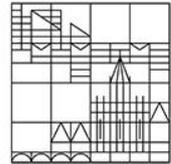
**Lecturer:** Dr. Vanessa Dirksen

### **Description:**

This course examines the body and embodiment in relation to new media. New media technologies are broadly defined to include a wide range of digital technologies, often having characteristics of being 'augmented', real-time and interactive. Some examples looked at during the course are video games, telepresence technologies for video-mediated interaction, financial and medical technologies. The course looks into the effects these technologies may have on notions of emplacement, bodily transformations, embodiment without bodies, processes of objectification and subjectification of the body, and marginalization of anomalous bodies. The course starts off by providing students with an introduction to sociological theories of the body, after which these theories are applied to forms of embodiment in and through new media technologies. In so doing, it aims to help students apply critical thinking skills in analyzing and deconstructing sociological meanings of the body in relation to new media.

**Remarks:** The language of the lectures as well as the course reading is English. Students may however reply and initiate discussions in German, present their work in German as well as write their term papers in German.

**Credit requirements:** Reading responses (Referat); a written final paper.



## Object Lessons: Introduction to New Materialisms

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 10

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorothy Kwek

**Description:** New bio- and communications technologies, physical entities, and large-scale alterations in the human Umwelt — climate change, pollution, genomic codes, nanomachines in the blood, quantum particles, embryonic stem cell lines, insect drones—are emergent new materialities, which existing theories seem ill-equipped to handle. This course examines a new interdisciplinary approach to the practical, political and the bioethical implications of the new materialities. Theorists of the “new materialisms” focus on non-human agencies and powers, on the diverse efficacies of things and ‘stuff.’ By challenging the boundaries we once took for granted between natural and artificial, between subject and object, between ecology and technology, the “new materialisms” reconfigure our views on the relations between ecology, commodity, and polity. Course readings and discussions in English.

**Literature:** Readings include works by Sara Ahmed, Louis Althusser, Walter Benjamin, Jane Bennett, Bruno Latour, Marcel Mauss, Daniel Miller.

**Remarks:** Course readings and discussions in English.

## Forum ethnographic film

**Course type:** film forum

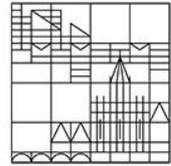
**ECTS:** 0

**Responsible Instructors:** Alexis Malefakis; Julia Scheller; Robert Stock.

**Description:** A slaughterhouse in Nigeria, a youth gang in Berlin Kreuzberg and a Heavy Metal-Festival in a North-German village: Documentaries offer insight into life worlds that might seem strange at first glance. This puts documentary filmmaking in close relationship with ethnographic practices of observing, recording, reflecting and representing. Particularly since the beginning of the 20th century numerous documentaries translate ethnographic knowledge in visual projects.

This film series offers a forum for students interested in social anthropology, qualitative social research and studies in visual cultures. Furthermore it is open to all students who like to think outside the box and try out new viewing habits. The selected films offer a wide variety of topics from migration to urban music cultures, practices of cultural appropriation, work and homelessness. In subsequent discussions we will take a critical look at formal and substantial aspects of each film.

**Remarks:** There are no texts to be read, no written tests and no credits can be acquired.



## **SUMMER SEMESTER 2013**

### **Multitudes, Mobs and Masses**

**Course type:** BA Seminar Aufbaumodul / Undergraduate advanced course – Advanced module (BA 2nd – 3rd year)  
**ECTS:** 3 / 7

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorothy Kwek

**Description:**

Throughout much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, 'the masses' were characterized as an undifferentiated, unthinking herd (Nietzsche), gullible conformists susceptible to manipulation (Tocqueville, Mill), driven by superstition and irrationality, and by their sheer numbers threatening a contagious, uncontrollable violence (Le Bon, Canetti, Freud, Reich). By contrast, recent left-critical analyses deliberately deploy the term 'multitude' to celebrate a popular, participatory and emancipatory politics; it serves as an indictment of the failures of formal, procedural theories of representative democracy and liberal rights discourses to address endemic problems of access, inequality, and membership (Deleuze, Guattari, Hardt, Negri, Virno). This course analyzes seminal social theories on the life of the masses. Seminars, readings and assignments will be in English.

### **Social Network Analysis (Project Seminar)**

**Course type:** MA Projektseminar / Graduate project course  
**ECTS:** 14

**Lecturer:** Dr. Sebastian Schnettler

**Description:**

This class will provide a hands-on overview of the concepts and methods of social network analysis. Depending on research interests and data availability, researchers commonly look at networks of different sizes and degrees of complexity. In this class we will learn about tools to analyze these various types of networks. This will include egocentric networks (e.g. my own friends and family) and complete networks of various sizes: e.g. friendship ties in a school class, communication networks of an organization, and large-scale, complex networks like a network consisting of the links between all Facebook users in the world. The class will alternate between lecture/seminar style presentations and discussions and practical sessions in which students work on a range of small-scale research projects, applying the tools learned in class.

**Prerequisites:** Basic experience with statistical software (e.g. STATA, R).

**Literature:**

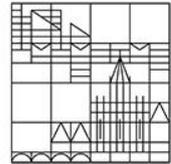
- Hanneman, Robert A. and Mark Riddle. 2005. Introduction to social network methods. Riverside, CA: University of California, Riverside (published in digital form at <http://faculty.ucr.edu/~hanneman/>)

### **Sociological Models of Decision Making**

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course  
**ECTS:** 4 / 10

**Lecturer:** Prof. Thomas Hinz

**Description:**



Sociologists particularly stress all sorts of constraints for individual action. Starting from rational choice approaches, the course covers typically sociological arguments on how we make decisions: social norms are at focus as well as peer influence, and social contagion. Furthermore, decisions are often jointly made by interdependent actors yielding a need for strategic consideration. After discussing theoretical models, empirical applications are presented reaching from educational choices, labor market participation, production of public goods, social movements, regional moves to fertility decisions.

**Literature:**

- Hedström, Peter/Bearman, Peter (2009) The Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology. Oxford: University Press.

### **The Modernity of Christianity in Africa**

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 4 / 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Rijk van Dijk

**Description:**

This course draws attention to the complex history of Christianity in Africa, in doing so offering an anthropological perspective on the Africanization of the Christian faith that led to a creative variety of different local 'Christianities'. Students will learn about the social processes informing this development and the manners in which this variety of Christianities is interacting with economic and socio-political dimensions of life in Africa. In addition, students will be introduced to the anthropology of Christianity as a cultural comparative body of knowledge pertaining to 'the great transformation' (Hefner) and the 'conversion to modernity' (Comaroff & Comaroff) of local societies. Particular attention will be paid to the fact that, originating from Africa, certain forms of Africanized Christianity have become present in Western societies, thereby shedding a new light on the role of faith in mediating the experience of local societies in a globalized world. Number of participants is limited to 15.

**Remarks:** Course-work: compulsory reading, presentation/discussion of assigned literature, working group study.

### **Elementary Forms of Religion: Anthropological Case Studies**

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 4 / 10

**Lecturer:** PD Dr. Kay Junge

**Description:**

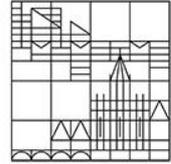
In this seminar we will discuss a number of more or less classical anthropological monographs focusing on secrecy and religion.

**Literature:**

The relevant books will be shelved in the library.

### **Anthropology of Childhood (Course offered within the Baden-Württemberg University Network - Freiburg, Heidelberg, Konstanz and Tübingen)**

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course



ECTS: 4 / 8

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Thomas G. Kirsch / Prof. Dr. Deepak Behera (University of Tübingen)

**Description:**

Course offered within the Baden Württemberg University Network - Freiburg, Heidelberg, Konstanz, Tübingen.

NOTE: this course is going to take place in the city of Tübingen. If you need assistance for you stay, please contact the Ethnology Student Association (Fachschaft der Ethnologie) through Facebook.

Preliminary meeting: 18.05.2013 at 10.00a.m in the Schloss Hohentübingen (Room 03) or by appointment for students that don't belong to the University of Tübingen.

Block seminar: 22.6.-23.6.2013, 10.00a.m. - 05.00p.m.; Location: Schloss Hohentübingen (Room 03)

Block seminar: 13.7.-14.7.2013, 10.00a.m. - 05.00p.m.; Location: Schloss Hohentübingen (Room 03)

This course addresses master students with a particular interest in the study of children and childhood. For many decades anthropologists have focused mainly on the activities of adults and neglected the worlds and lives of children. Many recent studies have shown that concepts of "childhood" are highly variable and form the basis of different practices related to children's education, health and behavior. Furthermore, it has become apparent that children are not simply passive objects in processes of socialization dominated by adults but are themselves active agents in the social world. In order to understand these developments the students will first be introduced to essential theories and themes which have dominated the debates in recent years. This includes contributions to

Politics of Childhood,  
Childhood as a Social/Cultural Construct,  
Children's Participation and Agencies,  
Children's Rights and Cultural Variations,  
Children's Competency,  
Children's Play as Interaction vs. Socialization,  
Inter-generational Relations.

As part of this general introduction to childhood studies the seminar will also discuss the ethical issues involved in research on and with children.

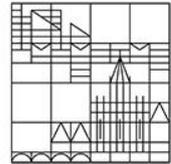
In the second part the focus of the seminar shifts towards concrete ethnographic examples from India with a special reference to the Indian state of Orissa. In order to create an understanding for the different fields to which an Anthropology of Childhood can make an essential contribution, the seminar will discuss a variety of topics such as

Childhood and Gender Bias: Some Reflections from India,  
Overburdened School-going Children in India (With Special Reference to Orissa),  
Slum Children in a Small City in Eastern India,  
Children's participation in household activities in rural Orissa,  
Impact of drought on children of indigenous communities in Orissa,  
Educational Institutionalization of tribal children in Orissa: Case Studies of Ashram Schools and Kanyashrams,  
"Ritual Selling" and "Throwing Away" of Children in rural Orissa.

At the end of the seminar an English documentary movie titled, "Lost Childhood in Villages" will be shown to the students. This movie covers cases of child labour in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal. The movie is a production of National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad. The students will have to discuss their comprehension of the child labour situation in India.

**Literature:**

- Behera. D.K. 2006. "Childhoods in South Asia". Delhi: Longman/Pearson, 2006.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1996. "The Invisible Little Big Workforce: Plight of the Working Girl Child in India," in E. Verhellen (ed.), Children's Rights. The Netherlands: Kluwer Law International.



- \_\_\_\_\_. 2007. "The Impact of Drought on the Indigenous Children of Kalahandi District of Orissa, India," in Deepak Kumar Behera (ed.), *Childhoods in South Asia*, New Delhi: Pearson Education, 2007.
- Behera. D.K. and Jaysashree Mishra. 1996. "The Plight of Girl-child in India" in Georg Pfeffer and D.K. Behera (eds.), *Contemporary Society: Childhood and Complex Order*. New Delhi: Manak Publications.
- Behera. D.K. and Rashmi Pramanik. 2006. "Experience of School-going Children of Sambalpur City: In between School and Home", *South Asian Anthropologist*, 6 (2): 143-149.
- Behera. D.K. and Nibedita Nath. 2011. "Provisions of the Rights of the Child in the Context of an Eastern India City: A Critical Assessment" in Raja Reddy Kalluri (ed.) *Contemporary Indian Society*. New Delhi: Sipra Publishing Company, (jointly with Nibedita Nath).
- James, A. and A. Prout. 1997. *Constructing and Reconstructing Childhood: Contemporary Issues in the Sociological Study of Childhood*. London: Falmer Press.
- James, A., C. Jenks and A. Prout. 1998. *Theorizing Childhood*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Jill E. Korbin, 2010. *Childhood through an Anthropological Lens*. *Current Anthropology*, 51 (3): 446-448.
- Lancy, David. 2008. *The Anthropology of Childhood: Cherubs, Chattel, Changelings*. New York: Cambridge,
- Mayall, B. 1994. *Children's Childhoods: Observed and Experienced*. London: The Falmer Press.
- Mead, Margaret. 1928. *Coming of Age in Samoa*. New York: Morrow.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1925. *Growing Up in New Guinea*. New York: William Morrow Company INC.
- Skoda, Uwe. 2006. Ritual 'Selling' and 'Throwing Away' of Children: Temporary Identification in a Converging Tribal and Caste Society. in D.K. Behera (ed.) "Childhoods in South Asia". Delhi: Longman/Pearson.
- Waterson, Roxana and Behera, D.K. 2011. *Changing Asia-Pacific Childhood Vol. 12, No. 5*, (Special Issue of The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group).

## **Romance and (Ir)Responsibilities: Relationships, Consumption and Desire in Africa**

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course

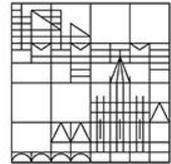
**ECTS:** 4 / 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Rijk van Dijk

### **Description:**

This course explores the arrival of new models of social relations in sub-Saharan Africa that are largely the result of an increased interaction of urban populations with globally circulating images of romantic ideals and patterns of conspicuous consumption that are marking modern notions of companionate love. The course offers an anthropologically informed analysis of the introduction and ensuing incorporation and contestation of these new romantic notions of relationships as well as of the ways in which the latter impact on generational structures. It will be shown that the rise of new and young middle classes is interlocked with the rise of new consumptive desires, the emergence of new mediascapes through which global images of romantic love are being negotiated, the rise of new educational models through which new gender-parities are being constructed, and the rise of new concerns about the private and the intimate which in the (crowded/congested) realities of African cities acquire unprecedented power. Yet, interestingly, this development is marred by an equally forceful concern with new responsibilities that this reshaping of relationships is bringing, namely responsibilities concerning the companionate success of the relationship, of the marital economy, of the obligations vis-a-vis the extended family, or those concerning the vitality of the body, sexual desire and gratification.

**Remarks:** Course-work: compulsory reading, presentation/discussion of assigned literature, working group study.



## Experimental Methods in Surveys

**Course type:** Master Seminar / Graduate course  
**ECTS:** 8

**Lecturer:** Dr. Katrin Auspurg

### **Description:**

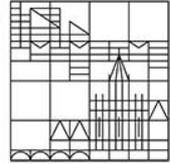
Motivation: Survey experiments have come to be a standard tool for investigating people's attitudes, values, opinions and decisions. There is an increasing use of surveys that integrate multi-factorial experimental set-ups, like conjoint analyses, choice-experiments, and factorial surveys. All these methods ask respondents to rate fictive situations or objects. By systematically varying attributes of the descriptions, it is possible to determine their influence on stated choices, decisions or attitudes. For example, what is the impact of wages compared to non-monetary job attributes like child care opportunities when deciding on job offers? Do all respondents employ similar decision rules or are there differences across social groups? Researchers' controlled experimental variation of stimuli allows a reliable evaluation of the impact of the attributes. What is the more, the methods enables an explicit testing of decision theories, as for instance choice experiments are explicitly designed to test Random Utility Theories (RUTs). As the experiments are embedded in a survey design, it is a relatively simple means of reaching a heterogeneous sample population.

Course content and learning objectives: The course gives a theoretical and practical overview on experimental survey methods (mainly conjoint analysis, choice experiments, factorial surveys; but also game-theoretical set-ups). Participants will learn and discuss the features, typical applications, advantages, and shortcomings of different experimental methods. Key element will be the development of an own small survey experiment (factorial survey or choice experiment): students get practical insights into all single steps that are needed to design survey experiments, starting with the specification of the assumed decision rule, going on with the specification of attributes, selection of an experimental design, draft of questionnaire up to the analysis of data from a small pilot-study. Participants might select a research question related to their own thesis for these practical exercises. At the end of the course, all participants should be able to start own work with experimental survey data and to assess the strength and limitations of different experimental designs.

### **Literature:**

- Jordan Louviere (2008): *Analyzing Decision Making. Metric Conjoint Analyses*. Newbury Park: Sage.
- Louviere, Jordan J./Hensher, David A./Swait, Joffre (2000): *Stated Choice Methods. Analysis and Application*. Cambridge: University Press.
- Wallander, Lisa. 2009. "25 Years of Factorial Surveys in Sociology: A Review." *Social Science Research* 38:505-520.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge of data management and data analysis with statistical software (Stata) as well as survey research.



## **WINTER SEMESTER 2012/13**

### **Popular Culture and Sociology: The TV Series "South Park" as a Tool and Data in Empirical Research**

**Course type:** BA Seminar Basismodul / Undergraduate basic course – Basic module(BA 1st – 2nd year)  
**ECTS:** 3 / 5

**Lecturer:** Nils Meise, M.A.

#### **Description:**

Sociology tries to maintain a monopoly in understanding the social world. We use empirical methods to decode the mundane world in order to get a deeper understanding of it. Popular culture is most of the time considered as data only. But sociological reflections are often one step behind of the present in e.g. blaming, scandalizing or showing us what went "wrong" or "right". Therefore a deeper understanding of current popular culture might be fruitful for us as sociologists.

In this course we will have a closer look at the TV series "South Park" and its value for sociology. We will discuss one episode and classical sociological texts in each session. The focus of this course is on sociological theory, media studies and finding ways how to cope with data from popular culture in empirical research.

#### **Literature:**

- Gournelos, Ted. 2009. Blasphemous Allusion. Coming of Age in South Park. *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 33 (2): 143-168.
- Nagy, Victoria. 2010. Motherhood, Stereotypes, and South Park. *Women's Studies* 39 (1): 1-17.

### **Applied Introduction to Demographic Research**

**Course type:** BA Projektseminar / Undergraduate project course – Advanced module (BA 2nd – 3rd year)  
**ECTS:** 9

**Lecturer:** Dr. Sebastian Schnettler

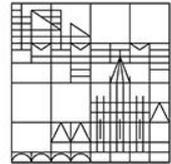
#### **Description:**

This course provides an introduction into the major concepts and methods of demographic research. The substantive focus will be on population structure and trends in Europe with some selective comparisons of world regions. About half the course time is reserved for lecture/seminar in which students learn about demographic research. In the second half students apply the learned concepts and methods to small empirical problems. As part of these exercises, students will learn to obtain demographic data from public sources, and to calculate composite demographic statistics on the basis of demographic data obtained from these sources. Towards the end of the semester and with the assistance of the instructor, students will develop a research plan and start data collection for a larger project that will be the basis of their final paper.

**Prerequisites:** Introductory experience with Excel, Open Office Calc or similar software.

### **Communication - A Key Term in Sociology**

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course  
**ECTS:** 10 / 4



**Lecturer:** PD Dr. Kay Junge

**Description:**

Taking modern systems theory as a starting point, this seminar will focus on some of the more recent contributions to questions of human communication mainly from conversation analysis, pragmatics and game theory.

**Literature:**

Everything will be made available via ILIAS (online learning platform of the University of Konstanz).

### Multivariate procedures for causal inference

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 8 / 4

**Lecturer:** Kilian Seng

**Description:**

The course will cover multivariate procedures of data analysis for causal inference. Besides the basics of causal inference the following topics will be covered:

- multivariate regressions for discrete and continuous variables
- matching estimators
- panel data analysis
- multilevel analysis
- models for endogeneity

Further topics can be introduced on request.

The participants will present their own research project applying one of the methods mentioned above during class and hand in a research paper.

Software: STATA

**Literature:**

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane und Sidney Verba (1994): Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Wolf, Christof und Henning Best (2009): Handbuch der sozialwissenschaftlichen Datenanalyse. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag.
- Ulrich Kohler und Frauke Kreuter (2008): Datenanalyse mit Stata - Allgemeine Konzepte der Datenanalyse und ihre praktische Anwendung. Oldenbourg.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge of statistics and empirical methods as well as STATA.

### Self and Society in Asia

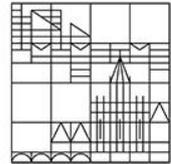
**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course

**ECTS:** 10 / 8 / 4

**Lecturer:** Dr. Dorothy Kwek

**Description:**

This course is an introduction to pivotal ways of thinking about self and society in the Chinese tradition of social and political thought. Primary readings consist of texts from the Confucian (Analects), Daoist (Daodejing and Zhuangzi) and Maoist (Little Red Book) traditions, which serve as the iconic and cultural underpinnings of contemporary East Asian societies. Besides reading for content, we will also deal with issues of linguistic and conceptual translation and problems of interpretation. In addition, excerpts from the European and Anglo-



American traditions of political thought will encourage our interrogation of our current modes of imagining the individual and its relation to society, and shed light on the assumptions and presuppositions we bring to our readings of the Chinese texts.

### Care: (Re)production, gender, migration

**Course type:** MA Seminar / Graduate course      **ECTS:** 10 / 8 / 4

**Lecturer:** Dr. Heike Drotbohm

#### **Description:**

In the course of the past two decades, the notion of care has become prominent in the critical examination of the intersection of work, reproduction, gender and mobility regimes. Concepts such as ‘global care chains’ (Hochschild) or ‘global care economy’ (Yeates) deal with the fact that state as well as family resources for an adequate provision for members of society who are in need – be it children, the elderly, ill or handicapped individuals – are distributed unequally between different world regions. Demographic changes in the countries of the ‘Global North’ indicate the recruitment of care workers from the countries of the ‘Global South’. Hence, more and more women from the ‘Global South’ leave their homes behind – and with this, their caring obligations – in order to carry out care work in households and institutionalized care facilities in the ‘Global North’, where the value of intimate care obligations in the domestic sphere has been substituted by monetary means. Critiques of these global entanglements argue that intimacy and emotional proximity are transferred from the migrants’ households of origin to the households in the North. This makes the notion of ‘care’ a highly relevant and timely tool for examining the multiple facets of a global distribution of gendered and generation-specific labour, as well as its affective and institutional dimensions.

In this seminar, we will examine sociological as well as anthropological literature on ‘care’ and ‘care work’. The scope of exemplary case studies will range from the position of domestic workers in Africa and Latin America, motherhood in transnational social fields, transnational sex workers, the concept of stratified reproduction, the idea of a ‘commodification of intimacy, the meaning of care as constitutive for kin relations as well as to philosophical understandings of an ideal ‘caring society’.

In the course of the semester participants will acquire a critical understanding of the concept of care. By means of different case studies they will be able to contextualize a variety of approaches in different disciplinary trends.