

What do we know and how do we think of our world: Sociological theory and social mechanisms today – dr hab. Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak

Course duration: one semester

Number of ECTS credits: 4.0

The contemporary developments in social theorizing are ranging from macro level issues of critical re-evaluation of globalization processes to micro ethnographic approaches, including Actor Network Theory, grounded theory, gender and post-colonial studies, Luhmann's neofunctionalism, social constructionism, Bourdieu engaged analyses of cultural fields, symbolic power and auto-reflexivity of social science and many more.

Principal goals:

- 1) to convey a general understanding of how sociology developed as a discipline within last half of century and to trace the development of the main theoretical traditions in sociology;
- 2) to consider the role of mechanisms in sociological theorizing; how a theory works, especially with regard to how it specifies the mechanisms that lead to human action or how it explains mechanisms on social or systemic level;
- 3) to examine different explanations of empirical phenomena; how a theory helps to understand world and people better,
- 4) to give students more experience in analyzing how sociological theory is employed in empirical research,
- 5) to train critical abilities in regard to analyse theories as well as the social practice.