

SYLLABUS

Course title: Philosophy of social science - an introduction

Instructor: Guido Palazzo

Email: guido.palazzo@unil.ch

Course website: moodle page to be announced

Semester: Autumn 2024

Timetable:

Session	Date	Time/Room	
1	23.9.	08:30-10:00 Ant 3077	Introduction - The Enlightenment project
2	25.9.	14:00-15:30 Ant 3088	continuation
3	30.9.	08:30-10:00 Virtual	continuation
4	7.10.	08:30-10:00 Ant 3077	Positivism
5	9.10.	14:00-15:30 Ant 3088	Paradigm shift
6	14.10.	08:30-10:00 Ant 3077	Interpretivism
7	16.10.	14:00 – 15:30 Ant 3088	Interpretivism applied in management research
8	21.10.	8:30-10:00 Ant 3077	Critical Theory Theory and application
9	23.10.	14:00-15:30 Ant 3088	Structuralism and poststructuralism
10	28.10.	08:30-10:00 Ant 3077	Structuralism and poststructuralism applied in management research
11	30.10.	14:00-15:30 Ant 3088	Pragmatism Theory and application
12	4.11.	08:30-10:00 Ant 3077	New challenges, new approaches
13	11.11.	08:30-10:00 Ant 3077	On publishing

Credits: 3.0

Registration procedure:

Sign-up for the course by sending an e-mail to benedicte.moreira@unil.ch

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

The course "Philosophy of science" will confront you with the various schools of thought in philosophy that build the (potential and too often only implicit) background of your own research project. Furthermore, we will work on the criteria of successful publication and try to better understand the process of publishing in international peer-review journals.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

It helps you to understand the various ways, scientific projects can be positioned and it clarifies the numerous hidden assumptions about reality, objectivity, truth, values and other ontological and epistemological constructs, which are at the core of scientific work.

READINGS PER SESSION

Session 1-3. Introduction

- No readings

Session 4: Positivism

- *Otto Neurath: The scientific world conception
- *Karl Popper: The problem of induction
- ** Milton Friedman: The methodology of positive economics.
- Bacharach, S. 1989. Organizational theories: Some criteria for evaluation. *Academy of Management Review*, 14: 496-515.

Session 5: Paradigm shift

- Ludwig Wittgenstein: *Tractatus logico-philosophicus* (extracts)
- Ludwig Wittgenstein: *Philosophical investigations* (extracts)
- Thomas Kuhn: *The structure of scientific revolutions* (extracts)
- *Paul Feyerabend: *Against method*

Session 6: The interpretative tradition

- *Hans-Georg Gadamer: *Hermeneutical understanding*
- Schwandt, T. A. 2000. Three epistemological stances for qualitative inquiry. In: N.K. Denzin & Y. S. Lincoln (eds.) *Handbook of qualitative research*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage, 189-213.

Session 7: The interpretative tradition applied in management research

- Eisenhardt, K. M. & Graebner, M. E. 2007. Theory building from cases: Opportunities and challenges. *Academy of Management Journal*, 50: 25–32.

- Ferraro, F., Pfeffer, J., & Sutton, R. I. 2005. Economic language and assumptions: How theories can become self-fulfilling. *Academy of Management Review*, 30: 8-24.
- Ghoshal S., & Moran, P. 1996. Bad for practice: A critique of the transaction cost theory. *Academy of Management Review*, 21: 13-47.
- Antonino Vaccaro & Guido Palazzo 2015. Values against violence. Institutional change in societies dominated by organized crime. *Academy of Management Journal*, 58:1075-1101.

Session 8: Critical Theory

- *Jürgen Habermas: Knowledge and human interest/The tasks of a critical theory
- Brian D. Steffy & Andrew J. Grimes, 1986: A Critical Theory of Organization Science. In: *Academy of Management Review* 11: 322-336.
- Guido Palazzo & Andreas G. Scherer, 2006: Corporate legitimacy as deliberation. A communicative framework. In: *Journal of Business Ethics*, Vol. 66: 71-88.
- Alexander Krüger, 2023. Islands of Deliberative Capacity in an Ocean of Authoritarian Control? The Deliberative Potential of Self-Organised Teams in Firms. *Business Ethics Quarterly* 33:1, pp. 67–101

Session 9: Structuralism, poststructuralism, postmodernism & feminism

- *Emile Durkheim: What is a social fact?
- *Claude Lévy-Strauss: Structural analysis in linguistics and in anthropology/Language and the analysis of social laws
- *Michel Foucault: The order of things/Power and knowledge
- Donna Haraway. *Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective*. *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 14, No. 3 (Autumn, 1988), 575-599

Session 10: Structuralism and Postmodernism applied in management research

- Farzad R. Khan, Kamal A. Munir & Hugh Willmott, 2007. A Dark Side of Institutional Entrepreneurship: Soccer Balls, Child Labour and Postcolonial Impoverishment. *Organization Studies*, 28(07): 1055–1077.
- Paul DiMaggio & Walter Powell, 1983. The iron cage revisited: Institutional isomorphism and collective rationality in organizational fields, *American Sociological Review*, 48(2): 147-160.
- Tapiwa Winston Seremani & Stewart Clegg 2016. Postcolonialism, Organization, and Management Theory: The Role of “Epistemological Third Spaces”. *Journal of Management Inquiry* 25(2) 171–183
- Zahira Jaser & Dennis Tourish 2024. Hegemonic Surveillance at Work: Fabricating the cyberized, totalized and thespianized employee, *Organization Theory* 5: 1–23.

Session 11: Pragmatism

- Richard Rorty, 1981. Method, science and social hope. *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 11: 569-588.
- Moshe Farjoun, Christopher Ansell & Arjen Boin, 2015. Perspective – pragmatism in organization studies: Meeting the challenges of a dynamic and complex world. *Organization Science*, 26(6), pp. 1787–1804.

- Gry Espedal & Arne Carlsen 2024. Value Inquiry and Constructing the Good in Organizations. *Organization Studies*, forthcoming.

Session 12: New challenges, new approaches

- Ali Aslan Gümüşay & Juliane Reinecke, 2024. Imagining Desirable Futures: A call for prospective theorizing with speculative rigour. *Organization Theory* 5: 1–23.
- Marvin Hanisch, 2024. Prescriptive Theorizing in Management Research: A New Impetus for Addressing Grand Challenges. *Journal of Management Studies* 61: 1692-1716.
- Anne Sophie Meincke, 2023. The Metaphysics of Development and Evolution: From Thing Ontology to Process Ontology. *Human Development* 67:233–256.
- Charlotte Cloutier & Ann Langley, 2020. What Makes a Process Theoretical Contribution? *Organization Theory* 1: 1–32.

Session 13: On publishing

- No readings

* = articles are taken from: Gerard Delanty & Piet Strydom, *Philosophies of Social Science. The classing and contemporary readings*. Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2003.

** = articles taken from Michael Martin & Lee C. MyIntyre, *Readings in the philosophy of social science*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1994.

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

For the sessions 4 to 12 you have to prepare a summary of 500-600 words of the respective literature (= 9 summaries). The summaries must be submitted before, at latest at the beginning of the session. If you miss the deadline, you will have to write an essay of 1000 words instead. Since for some sessions there are longer or more readings, starting early in the course will be helpful.

The summaries should include the following aspects:

- What are the key elements of the argumentations?
- How are the different articles and their arguments related (e.g. building on each other, refusing arguments of each other, applying arguments)?

RETAKE ASSESSMENT

If you fail the course, you will have to redo the failed individual assignments.

COURSE MATERIAL (if applicable)

Literature (will be provided on the moodle)