**Main paradigms in sociology. 2018/19**

The main theoretical and research perspectives in sociology will be presented in relation to specific research problems and empirical data. The cognitive goal is to analyse critically different theoretical concepts with regard to their possibilities and limitations in explaining empirical phenomena.

Objectives:

* understanding the main theoretical perspectives;
* ability to use different theories to analyse selected social phenomena;
* critical analysis of sociological theories;
* ability to relate critical theory to empirical data.

The lectures are devoted to various research problems, on the example of which selected theories are analyzed comprehensively.

In addition to theory, students broaden their knowledge of selected topics and learn about the results of empirical research testing sociological theories.

Paradigms in social science

**1./ New issues in social science: Artificial intelligence and society.**

discussion based on the lecture: Kai-Fu Lee | Full Address & Q&A | Oxford Union

The impact of AI on society:

-labour market

-social relations

-social organisation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wOqP6fZuto>

Discuss the impact of AI on society in labour market and and social relations.

2./ **Topics of the current debate: What is social science today?**

the debate on model of social science “Academic Grievance Studies and the Corruption of Scholarship by Helen Pluckrose, James A. Lindsay and Peter Boghossian.

source : AREO:

<https://areomagazine.com/2018/10/02/academic-grievance-studies-and-the-corruption-of-scholarship/>

Academic standards and ideological issues in the field of humanities; what does the experiment on the corrupted humanities show?

*Sociology from a methodological perspective: debate on a contemporary model of social science science. Academic standards in the humanities; what does the experiment on the ‘corrupted humanities’ show?*

3./ **Theories of Crime and delinquency - Female criminal behaviour**

Meda Chesney- Lind, Randall G. Shelden “Girls, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice”, chapt. 5. Theories of Crime and Female Delinquency.

review of theories,

Theory of female Delinquency

What phenomena of female crime are not explained by the dominant sociological theories?

What specific phenomena of female criminality are explained by Theory of female Delinquency and Feminist Criminology.

What are the differences between the male and female perspectives on crime and criminal justice?

What are the features of female criminal behaviour?

*Theories of Crime and delinquency and theories of female delinquency (compare at lest two). Discuss the limitations and possibilities of explaining various social phenomena in a given theory, referring to empirical data .*

*What are the differences between the male and female perspectives on crime and criminal justice?What phenomena of female crime are not explained by the dominant sociological theories?*

**literature**:

Meda Chesney- Lind, Randall G. Shelden “Girls, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice”, chapt. 5. Theories of Crime and Female Delinquency.

**further readings:**

* Shelden, R. G., & Vasiliev, P. V. (2017). *Controlling the dangerous classes: A history of criminal justice in America*. Waveland Press.
* Garland, David. 2001. The culture of control; crime and social order in contemporary society , Chicago , UCP.
* Quinney, R., & Shelden, R. G. (2018). *Critique of the legal order: Crime control in capitalist society*. Routledge.

**4./ Sociology of Humour**

Theories of Social control and communication: the research on humour in society.

Humour in social communication

Humor and social interaction

Humour and Taboo

1. compare different theories to humour and focus on what social phenomena are/ can be explained by different theories,

main questions are:

**Social roots and functions of humour.**

**Why do people joke?**

**When and how is humour used in society?**

-humour as element of social interactions - social roles

- joking relationships in different social environments

- social context of joke and joking relationships :the rules for joking (e.g. gender differences, age, etc)

- humour and group culture: as element of status, power, idio-culture of a group,

- humour as the tool of group affiliation, social identification class, status distinction

- social functions of humour: humour as the tool of social control, conflict and cohesion:

2. after reading, please select examples of humour (one or two) from you culture (bring these jokes to the seminar! so al could see them)

which would illustrate some of the issues discussed in the text.

try to explain selected example of humour from sociological perspective:

you can analyse the content, or structure or the way a given joke worked in your country

Compare two different theories of humour: what social phenomena can be explained by different theories. Discuss the limitations and possibilities of explaining various social phenomena in a given theory, referring to empirical data.

Functional theory and social functions of humour.

Fine, G. A. (1983). Sociological approaches to the study of humor. In *Handbook of humor research* (pp. 159-181). Springer, New York, NY.

**further readings:**

Billig, M. (2005). *Laughter and ridicule: Towards a social critique of humour*. Sage.

Lockyer, S., & Pickering, M. (Eds.). (2005). *Beyond a joke: The limits of humour*. Springer.

Palmer, M. J., & Palmer, J. (2003). *Taking humour seriously*. Routledge.

Kuipers, G. (2015). *Good humor, bad taste: A sociology of the joke*. Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG.

**13.12.18/ Migration**

theories of migration

the limitations and possibilities of explaining various social phenomena in a given theory.

Trends of migration: what data say about the migratory proces?

Facts and myths about migration: Public opinion towards migrants.

Why migration polices are ineffective?

the social dynamic of migratory process, the structural reasons and globalisation, political systems and hidden agendas: the ‘real’ and hidden aims of migration policy

ethnic relations and migration

theories of adaptation and assimilation.

problems to discuss:

different social mechanisms/ social problems of different forms of migration: forced and voluntary migration, economic migration, education, family reunion etc.

How does the global economy (liberalisation of economy) influence the patterns of migration?migration?

The problem of social adaptations: the reasons and solutions?

Social factors that facilitate adaptation, social barriers of adaptation (data: educational and economic performance of children from different type of migrant families, racial auto- stereotypes, legal barriers, ect.)

*Theories of migration (compare at lest two). Discuss the limitations and possibilities of explaining various social phenomena in a given theory, referring to empirical data.*

*Why migration polices are ineffective?*

*Based on empirical data, explain the factors that make adaptation of migrant effective and ineffective.*

1.Stephen Castles (2004) Why migration policies fail, Ethnic and Racial

Studies, 27:2, 205-227, DOI: 10.1080/0141987042000177306

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0141987042000177306>.

2. The Adaptation of Migrant Children Author(s): Alejandro Portes and Alejandro Rivas Source: The Future of Children, Vol. 21, No. 1, Immigrant Children (SPRING 2011), pp. 219-246

**further readings:**

Crosnoe, Robert; Turley, Ruth N. López (2011-07-21). ["K-12 Educational Outcomes of Immigrant Youth"](https://muse.jhu.edu/article/446012). *The Future of Children*. **21** (1): 129–52. [doi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_object_identifier):[10.1353/foc.2011.0008](https://doi.org/10.1353%2Ffoc.2011.0008). [ISSN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Serial_Number) [1550-1558](https://www.worldcat.org/issn/1550-1558).

Second-generation immigrants in the United States

Portes, Alejandro, and Min Zhou. "The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants." ANNALS. 530. no. 1 (1993): 74–96.

Portes, A. (1997). Immigration theory for a new century: Some problems and opportunities. *International migration review*, *31*(4), 799-825.

**6. Topics of the current debate around work of**  Thomas Piketty

the economic foundations of social structure and inequalities

what do reveal the historical trends of wealth distribution?

market mechanisms: labour, capital and social inequality

merit and inheritance in the longrRun

social policy in 21 c.

the critique of liberal and neo-liberal policy.

*Thomas Piketty and the Capital in the 21st century: the critique of liberal and neo-liberal policy.*

Piketty Thomas, Capital in 21 century. (introduction, chapter: 7)

Piketty, T., & Zucman, G. (2014). Capital is back: Wealth-income ratios in rich countries 1700–2010. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *129*(3), 1255-1310. <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qju018>

Ha-Joon Chang. 2010. 23 Things they don’t tell you about Capitalism. Penguin Books.

Sandel, M. J. (2000). What money can't buy: the moral limits of markets. *Tanner Lectures on Human Values*, *21*, 87-122.

Putnam, R. D. (2001). Bowling alone: The collapse and revival of American community. Sandel Michael, Justice

7. Theories of modernisation.

the relations between economy culture and society.

culture differences and economy.

culture differences and political regimes and power.

Inglehart, R., & Welzel, C. (2005). Modernization, cultural change, and democracy: The human development sequence. Cambridge Unversity Press.

Welzel, C., Inglehart, R., & Kligemann , H. D. (2003). The theory of human development: A cross‐cultural analysis. *European Journal of Political Research*, *42*(3), 341-379.

**7-14. Students’ projects:**

Theories of social stratification: stratification in postmodern societies: distinctions and unifications.

consumption and aesthetic

Art and music as social practice

Emotions.

Modernisation theory: the consequences of modernisation on cultural patterns. The case of Indian society.

The process of stigmatisation (the interactionism perspective on social life.

**15. summary.**

final remarks and conclusions