



CONTEMPORARY THEORIES IN ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY

Course syllabus

Course consists of 30 hours of lectures. These will be delivered as follows.

1. Development of economic sociology as a specific sub-field (Hours 1-8)

- key theoretical approaches in the analysis of recent economic phenomena
- key research approaches in the analysis of economic organizations, processes, actors
- economic action and social structures
- new economic and institutional sociology
- social and cultural factors of development in complex societies.

2. The sociological view of the economy (Hours 9-15)

- the protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism
- institutionalized organizations, formal structure as myth and ceremony
- institutional isomorphism and collective rationality in organizational fields
- the social construction of organizations and markets
- deinstitutionalization of an organizational form

3. Networks and markets (Hours 16-21)

- the division of labor in society
- economic action and social structure: the problem of embeddedness
- social determinants of economic action
- a structural approach to markets
- structural holes: the social structure of competition
- embeddedness and financial capital
- the impact of social relations and networks

4. Power in economic sociology (Hours 21-26)

- the transformation of corporate control
- socializing capital
- the rise of the large industrial corporation;

5. Cognition (Hours 27-30)

- the elementary forms of the religious life
- the social construction of reality
- economic sociology and sociology of knowledge
- cognitive limits on rationality; sensemaking in economic organizations



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Course reading materials

- Mark Granovetter (1985): Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness. *The American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 91, pp. 481-510.
- David Hall and Paul Soskice (2001): *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. (2001). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Karl Polanyi (1944): *The Great Transformation*. Boston: Beacon.
- Michael Porter (1998): *The Competitive Advantage of Nations*. New York: The Free Press.
- Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg (2005): *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Max Weber (1978). *Economy and Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Additional relevant materials – EU and the information society

- Foray, Domonique (2015): *Smart Specialisation: Opportunities and Challenges for Regional Innovation Policy*. Routledge: London and New York.
- Makarovič, Matej, Janez Šušteršič and Borut Rončević. 2014. "Is Europe 2020 set to fail? The Cultural Political Economy of the EU Grand Strategies." *European Planning Studies* 22 (3): 610-626.
- *Ngai-Ling Sum and Bob Jessop. 2014. Toward a Cultural Political Economy: Putting Culture in Its Place in Political Economy. Edward Elgar: Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, USA.*

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Course instructions

1. Attending lectures and seminars is highly recommended, for you to participate in academic debates.

2. During the course, you will need to complete a seminar paper. Each student writes seminar work alone; no teamwork is allowed. The seminar paper can be theoretical or empirical and must demonstrate ability for formulation of advanced conceptual work and triangulation in empirical analysis and has to be publishable in a peer reviewed journal.

If the seminar paper is an empirical work, students can decide to:

- collect their own qualitative data or
- use the qualitative data collected during one of previous research project by Jean Monnet Chair or
- use the qualitative data from Slovenian Social Science Archive (www.adp.uni-lj.si) or
- use secondary data from publicly available sources, including a variety of international reports.

Students are strongly encouraged to use triangulation in their empirical seminar papers. They are also encouraged to use the topic and data that are relevant from perspective of Europe 2020 – therefore they need to analyse the processes relevant from the perspective of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

4. To pass the course the student needs to meet minimum criteria set by the grading regulations of the Faculty of Information Studies in Novo mesto for the production of written products (published on www.fis.unm.si under the section “pravilniki in obrazci”). However, to pass student needs to meet the minimum criteria for both seminar paper and exam.

7. The content of the course is defined in the syllabus, which is published on Moodle and on website www.borutronevic.net.