Course Title: Comparative and Transnational Analysis of Contemporary Societies
Lecturer: apl. Prof. Dr. Sigrid Quack

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course number</th>
<th>1532</th>
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<tr>
<td>Location/Room</td>
<td>MPIfG, Paulstr. 3, Conference room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Tuesday, 10–11.30 am, beginning October 9th 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Points</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of course</td>
<td>PhD course</td>
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<td>Course Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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1. Objectives

Since Durkheim the comparative method has been a key heuristic of social and political analysis. Comparative-historical research has provided important impetus for social science theorizing. More recently, however, a basic assumption of comparative-historical analysis – the equation of society with the nation-state - has been increasingly questioned and critiqued for the bias and limitations of its “methodological nationalism.” There have been calls to shift social analysis to the global level in response to increasing transnational activities, relationships and horizons of actors; increasing cross-border flows of people, capital and trade; as well as the emergence of an ever denser sphere of transnational and global organizations, networks and communities. This course aims to demonstrate that comparative analysis still has an important role to play, yet needs to be adapted and combined with other heuristic and methodological approaches to encompass the transnational and global realities of contemporary societies.

The course will provide students with an overview of key approaches in comparative-historical social and political analysis, major critiques, and alternative approaches of world society and transnational analysis. Both comparative and transnational analysis will be illustrated with thematic examples and students will be introduced to landmark studies in each field. Illustrations cover issues of state formation, social class and inequality, national capitalisms, cross-border policy networks and social movements, transnational communities and European welfare regimes.

Readings will focus on contributions from sociology but also include literature from political science and organization studies, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of comparative and transnational social analysis. The aim is to stimulate critical and interdisciplinary thinking and to enable students to develop conceptual and empirical research tools for the critical analysis of a seminal book in the field, to be completed at the end of the course.
2. Prerequisites

Ideally, students should have prior academic knowledge of one of the following thematic fields: comparative-historical sociology, sociology of globalization, political sociology, international relations, global history and/or organisational studies. However, the most important prerequisite is a vivid research interest in the field under study.

3. Relevance for study programs

The course addresses CGS, IMPRS and other doctoral students, as well as MA students of the WiSo-Faculty.

4. Contents

Structure of the course:

Introduction
- Why comparative social analysis in a globalised world?

Theoretical and methodological fundamentals
- Sociological classics: Cultural comparison
- Postwar social sciences: Historical and societal comparison
- Methods of comparative-historical analysis

Thematic illustrations
- State formation – Actors and processes in comparative perspective
- Social classes and strata – Historical construction of social categories
- National capitalisms – Internal coherence and complementarity

Limits and alternatives
- Limits of societal comparison and alternative approaches
- World system and world polity theory
- Analysis of cross-border diffusion
- Transnational social analysis

Thematic illustrations
- Transnational policy networks and social movements – Dynamics of cross-border institution building
- Transnational communities and diaspora - Cross-border identity formation
- European welfare regimes –Bounded and unbounded solidarity

Outlook
- Quo Vadis: Transnationalising comparative social analysis?

The syllabus and complete reading list will be made available online before the beginning of the course: http://www.mpifg.de/people/sq/teach_en.asp
5. Working requirements and assessment method

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures, student presentations and discussion. You are expected to come regularly to class having done the assigned reading and be ready to discuss it. Since most of the reading will be in English, you should set aside sufficient time for preparing class. In addition, you are expected to complete the following assignments:

1) Submit 5 brief response memos (no more than 1 single-spaced page) on the week’s readings. Memos for session 2 and 3 are obligatory; the other memos can be written for a session of your choice. These memos are intended to prepare the ground for class discussions by requiring participants to set out their initial reactions to the reading in written form. Each memo should identify at least one question that you would like to discuss in class. The memos need to be posted on the iversity platform by Sunday 8 pm before the class at the latest.

2) Give a short verbal presentation of key findings of the reading and questions for discussion (not longer than 15 minutes) in one of the seminar meetings. It is appreciated if you send the presentation by email to the lecturer by Sunday evening.

3) Write a book review critical review essay (approx. 15 pages, 1,5 spaced, excluding references) in which you discuss theory, methods and results of a renowned study (to be selected from a list of books to be provided) in light of the ideas and materials discussed in the seminar. You may choose between comparative and transnational/global monographs. A critical review of a comparative study should discuss how a transnational perspective could be added and integrated with the comparative approach. A critical review of a transnational study should reflect on whether and how local and national scales are encompassed. In both cases, the essay should state the merits and limits of theorizing and methods, and develop suggestions for improvements.

A one-page proposal for the research essay containing a suggested title and an outline should be posted on the iversity platform by Sunday, 13 January at the latest and discussed in a meeting with Sigrid Quack soon afterwards.

Master students have to register for “Hausarbeiten” at the WISO-Prüfungsamt before 30.11.2012. Deadline for submission of critical review essays is 15.2.2013. MA students can hand in a printed version to Mrs. Peters at the Seminar for Sociology/library between 10-12 am. Alternatively they can hand in the essay to the lecturer before 15.2.2012 noon. It is appreciated if students also send an electronic version to quack@mpifg.de. Doctoral students should send their critical review essay in electronic form to quack@mpifg.de.
Summary of deadlines:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Five response memos on reading for the next seminar session; Memos of session 2 and session obligatory.</td>
<td>14 October; 21 October</td>
<td>Sunday 8 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>One page outline for critical review essay</td>
<td>13 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical review essay</td>
<td>15 February</td>
<td>12 (Noon)</td>
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The final grade for the seminar will be based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Response memos and class participation (30%)
- Presentation (30%)
- Critical review essay – book review (40%)

8. Co-ordination/Contact
apl. Professor Sigrid Quack, quack@mpifg.de
Student assistant Carsten Gerards, gerards@mpifg.de
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Issues to be discussed</th>
<th>Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.10.</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Overview and planning</td>
<td>Presentation lecturer/Discussion</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Theoretical and methodological basics of comparative analysis</strong></td>
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<td>16.10.</td>
<td>Sociological classics: Comparing societies and civilizations</td>
<td>Marx, Weber, Simmel, Tocqueville, Durkheim</td>
<td>Student Memos Dialogue Participants – Lecturer</td>
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<td>8-9.30 am</td>
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<td>23.10.</td>
<td>Post-WW II social science: Historical comparison of modern societies</td>
<td>Moore, Eisenstadt, Skocpol</td>
<td>Student Memos Dialogue Participants – Lecturer</td>
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<td>30.10.</td>
<td>Comparative historical method</td>
<td>Macro, parallel and contrasting approaches</td>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
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<td><strong>Thematic illustrations of comparative approach</strong></td>
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<td>6.11.</td>
<td>State formation: Actors and processes in comparative perspective</td>
<td>Ertman, Gorski</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
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<td>13.11.</td>
<td>Social classes and strata: Historical construction of social categories</td>
<td>While collar workers, cadres, Angestellte</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
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<td>20.11.</td>
<td>National capitalisms: Internal coherence and complementarity</td>
<td>Symposium on Yamamura and Streeck</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Critique and limits of comparative approach</strong></td>
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<td>27.11.</td>
<td>“Methodological nationalism” and other critiques</td>
<td>Wimmer and Glick; Schiller; Beck; Tilly</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
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## Global and transnational sociology

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.12.</td>
<td>World system and world polity theory</td>
<td>Wallerstein, Meyer, Luhmann</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.12.</td>
<td>Transnational social analysis</td>
<td>Nye and Keohane, Djelic and Sahlin-Andersson, Kearney</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.12.</td>
<td>Methods of global and transnational analysis – possibilities and limits</td>
<td>Werner und Zimmermann; Marcus; Levitt and Glick; Schiller</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
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## Thematic illustrations of global and transnational approaches

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Format</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.1.</td>
<td>Transnational communities and diasporas: Cross-border identity formation</td>
<td>Pries, Saxenian</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.1.</td>
<td>Transnational policy networks and social movements: Dynamics of cross-border institution building</td>
<td>Djelic and Quack; Keck and Sikkink; Slaughter, etc.</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.1.</td>
<td>European welfare regimes: Bounded and unbounded solidarity</td>
<td>Ferrera, Risse</td>
<td>Student presentation</td>
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## Summarizing and looking ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Quo vadis: Transnationalising comparative social analysis?</th>
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<th>Presentation by lecturer and discussion</th>
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Textbooks and collections as background reading

Comparative historical analysis:

Cross-border, transnational and global analysis:

Online sources:
Globalization Webpage Emory University (Debates, data sources, literature)
http://www.sociology.emory.edu/globalization/about.html

Readings by session – Required readings

October 9th, Introduction: Why comparative social analysis in a globalised world?
No reading

October 16, Sociological classics: Comparing societies and civilizations

Choose one group of readings out of (1) to (5) as assigned in class

(1) Emile Durkheim and Marcel Mauss:

(2) Alexis de Tocqueville:
(3) Karl Marx:

(4) Max Weber:

(5) Georg Simmel:

**October 23, Post-WW II social sciences: Historical comparison of modern societies**

*Choose one reading out of (1) to (4) as assigned in class*

(1) Shmuel Eisenstad:

(2) Barrington Moore:

(3) Theda Skocpol:

(4) Charles Tilly:
October 30, Comparative historical method

Required reading:

Additional reading:

November 6th, State formation: Actors and processes in comparative perspective

Required reading:

Additional reading:

November 13, Social classes and strata: Historical construction of social categories

Required reading:

Additional reading:
November 20, National capitalism: Internal coherence and complementarity

Required reading:

Additional reading:

November 27, “Methodological nationalism” and other critiques of the comparative approach

Required reading:

Additional reading:

December 4th, World system and world polity theory

Choose out of required reading (1) - (3) as assigned in class

(1) World system theory:

Required reading:

Additional reading:
(2) World polity theory:

Required reading:

Additional reading:

(3) Luhmann’s differentiated world society:

Required reading:

Additional reading:

December 11, Transnational social analysis

Required reading:
Additional reading:

**December 18, Methods of global and transnational analysis – possibilities and limits**

Required reading:

Additional reading:

**January 8th, Transnational communities and diasporas: Cross-border identity formation**

Required reading:

Additional reading:

**January 15, Transnational policy networks and social movements: Dynamics of cross-border institution building**

Required reading:

Additional reading:


**January 22, European welfare regimes: Bounded and unbounded solidarity**

*Required reading:*

*Additional reading:*

**January 29, Quo vadis: Transnationalising comparative social analysis?**
*No reading*