

**Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme at the
Faculty of Social Sciences of the Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest**



Profile

The aim of the Doctoral Programme is to enable future scholars and experts to investigate varieties of social life in relation of each other in the context of economy, culture and history. Graduates of the Doctoral Programme will have to prove their ability to carry out independent research resulting in original problem solution and they are supposed to be able to present their research results in the fora of international community. Moreover, we expect that our graduates will be able to serve as experts in national and international political and business organizations where by means of analysis of social and economic problems they will support decisions. Accordingly, in the course of the training special emphasis will be given on competencies of transmittance of the acquired knowledge in the fields of business, public policy planning and education.

The underlying principle of the training programme is the recognition of the need to get a coherent core of knowledge concerning the structure and functions of modern societies. The interdisciplinary approach is aimed at to get rid of the fragmentation of specialized disciplines that makes impossible to understand the dynamics of social processes in their entirety.

This principle is in accordance with the criteria laid down for the European Higher Education Area declared in Bergen in 2005.

Mission

The Interdisciplinary Programme is dedicated to attain the following aims:

- to advance interdisciplinary research through courses stressing the interdependence of social, cultural, technological and economic processes and phenomena and giving impetus to empirical research through the most advanced data mining methods
- to promote cross-cultural and international comparative research
- to take part in a specific European PhD social research culture while preserving the specific Central European values and intellectual traditions

In line with the Bologna process the Interdisciplinary Programme is scheduled for a period of three years study.

Main focus of the Programme: Social Conflicts

Once the students have finished the programme of interdisciplinary social studies they will know the added value of social studies in relation of other studies in the fields of economics, political sciences and cultural anthropology. The specific feature of this programme is the emphasis on social conflict and division of societies caused by ethnic, national, political and socio-economic cleavages.

The courses and seminars assemble an impressive array of case sources stemming from databases concerning migration, digital divide, the rise of netocracy. This programme will take its place in Europe as a pathbreaking synthesis of the new methods of analysing the dynamic social conditions in which conflicts emerge. Students will learn that the potential of destructive social conflict is inversely related to the proliferation of democracy and market economy throughout the world and as a result of their learning they will have the knowledge and skills for the task of finding the practical mechanisms for conflict resolution.

History of the Programme and its institutional setup

The PhD School of Sociology at ELTE was founded in 1993, the school consist of three separate programmes as follows:

I. PhD Programme of Sociology:

Chair: Prof. Denes Nemedi

Number of students: 19 (2010)

Aim: education of future generation of researchers and teachers of sociology

Mandatory subjects: classic and modern theories of sociology, social structure, social mobility, methods of sociological research

Alternative subjects:

social psychology, political sociology, sociology of history, sociology of economy, sociology of law, social policy.

Research seminars offered by individual faculty members

II. PhD Programme of Social Policy

Founded in 1995

Chair: Prof. Eva Orosz

Number of students: 18 (2010)

Aim: education of high level professionnals of social policy

Mandatory subjects: theories of sociology, social structure, social mobility, history and practice of social policy

Alternative subjects: poverty, health care, homelessness, disadvantaged groups, social exclusion, welfare policies, addiction, deviance

Research seminars offered by individual faculty members

III. PhD Programme of Interdisciplinary Social Research

Founded: in 2009

Chair: Prof. Gyorgy Csepeli

Number of students: 18 (2010)

Recruiting and admission procedure, programme structure, requirements and degree (Interdisciplinary Social Research Programme)

Recruiting and admission procedure

The Programme is intended for those who are interested in the dynamics of interplay of culture, economy, technology and society in various fields of study and research. All students are eligible for admission who have a university diploma of any of the fields of humanities, economics, technological sciences, sociology and political science. The graduate of the diploma must be A or B.

In order to be admitted students are to write a research proposer fitting in to one of the major research areas listed below. An oral examination decides over the success of failure of the admission.

Major research areas

- Dynamics of social change (Prof. Fokas)
- Social, political, and cultural integration of the foreign immigrant population in Europe (Prof. Orkeny)
- Interpretation of results of multivariate analysis (Prof. Rudas)
- Imagining Europe (Prof. Csepeli)
- Conscious and unconscious processes in social psychology (Dr. habil Siklaki)
- Sociological varieties of deviance (Dr. habil. Biro)
- Rethinking the concepts of community, communality and ethnicity (Dr. habil. Kovacs)
- Transnational minorities in Europe - Gypsies, Kurds – (Ass. Prof. Pronai)
- New Economics (Research fellow Kovacs PhD)
- Socio-economic impacts of future internet (Prof. Csepeli, Prazsak PhD)
- Lesbian, gay and transsexual minorities (Research Fellow Takacs PhD)

Programme Structure

The Doctoral Programme consists of a three year's curriculum with the following subject modules and progress milestones.

	Semester					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Research Methods	SPSS	Advanced Statistical Methods	Data Mining	Qualitative Research	Focus Groups	On line Research Methods
Theoretical Approaches	Courses	Courses	Courses	Courses	Special seminars	Special seminars
Research Colloquium	Seminar on Research Projects	Seminar on Research Projects	Evaluation seminar	Prese-ntation and discussion	Prese-ntation and discussion	Prese-ntation and discussion
Teaching	-	-	-	Elective	Elective	-
Work on Thesis	Reading	Consul-tation	Approval	Study abroad	Writing	Writing
Milestones	Review of the literature (Paper)	Detailed outline	Revised Prospectus	Conference Paper Submission	Journal Article Submission	Defense

Courses

Dynamical sociology

Interdisciplinary approach the rising and diffusion of social innovations

Instructor: Professor Nikos Fokas

The lecture aims at advancing the interdisciplinary approach to the study of the social change. It includes the discussion of research results regarding generally the theory of social change, particularly rising and diffusion of social innovations, media dynamics, social simulations, and dynamics of social networks.

Migration strategies among different urban immigrant communities

Instructor: Professor Antal Orkeny

The main objective of the seminar is to study the degree of social, political, and cultural integration of the foreign immigrant population in several European cities, and therefore to study multicultural society at the local level. The questions that guide the whole semester are the following: (1) To what extent is the immigrant population integrated into the local life of their cities? (2) Are there significant differences in the degree to which different ethnic, cultural or national groups are socially, economically, and culturally integrated into the local life? (3) If such differences exist, what factors help explain the variations in the degree of integration from one immigrant group to another? The analytical approach of the seminar considers the potential influence of two main types of factors: (1) immigrants' individual characteristics; (2) the characteristics of the immigrant groups within the host society; (3) the host society. The interpretation will be carried out on different levels of analysis: (1) the contextual or macro level, through the use of secondary sources and interviews with political and administrative authorities; (2) the organizational or meso level, through the study of immigrants' organisational structures and networks, carried out with surveys to immigrants' associations; (3) the individual or micro level, through a survey to immigrant residents of different origins (with a control group of national-born citizens).

Introductory methodology

Instructor: Professor Tamas Rudas

No data used by any discipline may be analyzed without reference to the method of data collection, which determines their appropriate frame of interpretation. For example, a figure for unemployment rate is difficult or even impossible to interpret without telling whether this is a process produced figure, based on the number of those applying for unemployment benefits, or comes from a survey and is an estimate based on the number of those who say they are unemployed. The mode of data collection, therefore, is important even for users of the most basic statistical information and this is even more so for those not only using, but also analyzing data. This course discusses some of the fundamental issues of data collection and analysis, so that students gain an impression of the question that may be asked and may be answered, based on data. We shall not discuss any of the methods of data analysis in detail, rather we intend to facilitate a later study of these methods and we also will try to put the methods already known by students in the right perspective. The doctoral level of the course manifests itself, on the one hand, in the generality of discussion and, on the other hand, in the contribution expected from the students.

Nations in Europe

Instructor: Professor Gyorgy Csepeli

Affective and cognitive components of national consciousness can be considered as a mix of ancient and modern mental structures of human collective life. The subject is an ideal target of interdisciplinary approach connecting contexts of cultural anthropology, sociology, social psychology and economy based on history of culture. There is no consensus in the literature concerning the nature of the nations. Investigating contemporary problems of the nations there are authors who are emphasizing the aspects of organic development, ancient patterns of „Gemeinschaft” while other authors take the opposite course. They look at the nations through the „Entzauberung” prism of modernity focussing on the political, legal, cultural and economic systems bringing about the modern nation state. The perspective of the European Union is an ideal opportunity to demonstrate the convergence of these two

opposing approaches. Despite of past differences similarities seem to dominate the future of the European nation states. European nation states are unequivocally to face the challenges of XXI. century. No leading role of Europe can be imagined without facing the social, economic and cultural problems created by migration, global climate change, spread of knowledge society.

Advanced methodology

Instructors: Professor Tamas Rudas, Istvan Gyorgy Toth PhD, Zoltan Fabian PhD

One week intensive course with 30 hours of coursework and about 20 hours of practice, 5 sets of homeworks, worth of 5 ects credits.

Day 1: Survey methodology

Lecture 1: Questionnaire design

Lecture 2: Methods of data collection

Practice 1: Questionnaire design

Day 2: Practical sampling

Lecture 3: Basics of random sampling

Lecture 4: Stratification and multi-stage sampling

Practice 2: Sampling plan

Day 3: Data archives

Lecture 5: Archiving activities in Europe

Lecture 6: Access to data

Practice 3: Accessing data from an archive

Day 4: Cross cultural research

Lecture 7: Main ongoing European survey programmes

Lecture 8: Conceptual issues in cross cultural reasearch

Practice 4: Multi-country analysis

Day 5: Lecture 9: Sources and types of missing data

Lecture 10: Multiple imputation

Practice 5: Creation and analysis of imputed data files

Methods of international comparative research

Instructors: Professor Maria Szekelyi, Professor Antal Orkeny

The course is intended to provide an integrative perspective on cross-national comparative research for panel and repeated cross-sectional data, methods and analysis. The course will give some ideas how longitudinal, cross-national or cross-sectional projects may be designed, how a proposal should look, how adequate analytical methods can be selected, and how the results are best presented. The course is organized around research projects designed individually by the participants based on available data sources. Each student selects a problem of interest, conducts a brief review of relevant literature, develops research hypotheses and a measurement instrument with which to test these hypotheses, selects an adequate sample, and analyzes the obtained data. Periodic assignments corresponding to each stage of the research process will be submitted on each of the topics below.

Conscious and unconscious processes in social psychology

Instructor: Dr. habil. Istvan Siklaki

The concept of unconscious was not a household term in the field of social psychology until recently. However, during the last two decades unconscious (or automatic) processes earned special attention proving that beside conscious processes the cognitive unconscious has a basic role in our social information processing and behaviour – social perception, decision making, self, etc. The relationships between

conscious, controlled and unconscious, automatic processes, and their interaction, is not clear as yet.

The topic is an interdisciplinary one as it includes all areas of cognitive science: psychology and social psychology, neuroscience – especially cognitive neuroscience – linguistics, artificial intelligence, philosophy.

A central issue is the problem of conscious, voluntary control: is there objectively a conscious will that controls our psychological and social psychological processes, or all the phenomena covered by social psychology can be accounted for by non-conscious control processes. What is the origin of our experience that our conscious will controls our behaviour, what are the empirical evidence underlying this experience, or, on the other hand, what are the evidence suggesting that it is a mere illusion.

There are complex theories of consciousness based on empirical data, e.g., the social psychological theory of Baars, or the neurophysiological theory of Sommerhof. In parallel, there is a fast expanding empirical knowledgebase supporting the notion of a cognitive unconscious in a variety of fields such as the influence of emotions on action, the influence of subliminal stimuli on subsequent behaviour, the influence of unconscious factors on the perception of people and social groups, as well as the attitudes, prejudices towards them, the unconscious aspects of the self, etc.

This shift of emphasis from the conscious social processes towards the non-conscious ones might have an important applied consequence, as well: it can have a fundamental effect on the research methodology of social sciences. Evidence is accumulating to the effect that it is rather the rule, than the exception that we are not consciously aware of the underlying factors motivating our behaviour and decisions, i.e., there is hardly any causal relationship between our conscious experiences about our behaviour and the underlying forces. If and where this proves to be true, there is no point directly asking people about their impressions, about the causes of their decisions, i.e., the scope of validity for traditional self-report measures narrows considerably, while, at the same time, traditional and innovative indirect research methodologies gain significance.

The aim of the course is to introduce the participants in the current cognitive theories of conscious and unconscious processes, the conscious and non-conscious aspects of the major social psychological phenomena, the hypotheses about the (evolutionary) functions of conscious (as well as unconscious) processes, and to point out the relevance of such insights for the research methodology of the social sciences.

The politics of deviance

Instructor: Dr. habil. Judit Biro

The classical analysis of the deviance or the appropriate behavior is used to be about the process of generating and sustaining cultural values, clarifying moral boundaries, and promoting social solidarity. Nowadays we adopt different views of the medicalization, the criminalization and so on for the questionable behaviors along with its moral and others consensus that conditioned our attitudes toward teenage sex, suicide, substance abuse.

The importance of power issues in health and healing.

The modern and post-modern societies which can influence, shape and misshape bodies.

The difficulties with the terms „addictions” and „addict” by looking at their application to different type of behaviors.

The moral entrepreneurs.

The ethical questions about the sociological questions that themselves cause pain to other suffering.

Narrative psychology and discursive psychology

Instructor: Peter Bodor PhD

The course aims to introduce and to detail the narrative and discursive psychologies as alternative approaches to the mainstream individualistic cognitive psychology. More and more scholars wish to overcome the „mentalism” of contemporary psychology. Some of them attempt to highlight the “discourse” as a unifying concept for psychological analysis, while others rely more on the concept of “narrative”. The course starts with an exposition of the common conceptual horizon of discourse analysis and narratology. Then, various programs of discursive psychology and narrative psychology will be discussed. The course offers a detailed exposition of the psychological and social psychological approaches which offers discursive and/or narrative alternatives to cognitive psychology.

Community studies today

Instructor: Dr. habil. Eva Kovacs

The post-structuralist and post-colonial theories of the eighties and nineties attempted to rethink the concepts of community, communality and ethnicity. These approaches generally rested on the assumption that modern capitalism and liberalism had created exclusive democracies, from which wide social layers and groups were excluded. Post-structuralist critique put an emphasis on locality rather than community and communality. Today, mainstream theories discover the Weberian tradition again. Accordingly, we should not imagine the community on the basis of the subjective cohesion of the social actors but rather on that of interest mediation or societal networks.

Substantially, Community Studies describe and analyse cohesive and pervasive social processes in a clear social frame whose profile is experienced by both the researchers and the social actors to be researched. Community Studies is not a sub-discipline of sociology, ethnology, anthropology or Cultural Studies but a method, a genre of these disciplines.

The third generation of Community Studies focuses on cultural (ex)changes among ethnic communities, the reproduction of gender roles, local policy-making, etc. Analysing the impact of globalisation, Community Studies invented a paradigm of the reproduction of locality, namely, the ethnic landscape (Appadurai). Ethnic landscape is an important feature of social life, although it is not given, it always has to be reproduced. In this process, the context and emotional structure of real social forms (neighborhoods, communities) will be produced. Locality performs itself with the help of skills specific to this production. Therefore, stake of community is not the feeling of being together but the guarantee of self-esteem and appreciation of communities against other social formations.

Gypsies in Europe

Instructor: Csaba Pronai PhD

The Gypsy culture is a unique phenomenon as compared to other cultures of the world. The Gypsy community can be found in some sort of forms in almost every country of Europe. This „transnational“ or rather „transcultural“ minority embodies the difference everywhere: it is judged with prejudice by the dominant society. This phenomenon derives from the lack of knowledge of the Gypsy people. Cultural anthropologists have been trying to decipher the Gypsy identity since the 1950s. This was a significant turn in the history of Gypsy researches, as contrary to earlier researches this approach focuses mainly on „the Gypsy side“ in the relationship of the Gypsy and non-Gypsy culture. Cultural anthropology perceives the Gypsy culture as

an independent complexity, and examines it, by using the method of participant observation during the research, in its own system of meanings and values. Therefore cultural anthropology managed to reveal some new findings. Cultural anthropological studies have challenged fundamentally those stereotypes that are prevalent in the members of the dominant culture. These studies try to unmask the false myths of „dirty“, „nomad“, „lazy“, „indisciplinable“ etc. Gypsy, and fill them with new contents. The goal of the „Gypsies in Europe“ subject is to familiarize the students with these achievements of cultural anthropology.

New economics

Instructor: Janos Matyas Kovacs PhD (Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna)

New institutional economics, the theory of property rights and transaction costs, public choice, evolutionary economics, experimental trends in economics, cognitive economics, new economic history, new comparative economics.

Socio-economic impacts of the future internet

Instructors: Professor Gyorgy Csepeli, Gergo Prazsak PhD

As a result of the emergence of new broadband technologies of data transmission structures and functions of the society are likely to change. The incessant evolution of electronic communication technologies changes the structure of social networks as well. The new and expanding domain has become an essential constituent of all segments of life including business, politics, media, entertainment, health care and learning. The internet has become an extremely important infrastructure both from a social and an economic point of view. Perception of the offline time and space has transformed profoundly leading to the emergence of virtual reality including varieties of the virtual self. The organization of new communities, new identities and new ways of knowledge requires new approaches not only to internet designs but at the same time investigations that go far beyond the technological dimension. How social structure will change as a result of the rise of 'netocracy'? User generated contents and services transform the way traditional social institutions have functioned. The web 2.0 revolution challenges traditional concepts related to privacy, intellectual property rights and security. The research is aimed to face with the positive and negative impacts of the digital revolution centered around the future Internet.

Critical study of sexualities

Instructor: Judit Takacs PhD (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

This course offers critical approaches to sexuality/gender issues from a Central Eastern European social scientific perspective, by focusing on factors that influence how different sets of knowledge on sexualities have been constructed and deconstructed, used and misused socially. One of the main aims of this course is to raise awareness about the suspect character of mutually exclusive dichotomies such as the heterosexual/homosexual, man/woman, feminine/masculine categories, while comparing the relatively well-known Western theoretical frameworks and findings to the sexuality/gender themes in Central Eastern Europe, which are slowly but surely gaining increasing interest and importance.

Studying sexuality is interpreted as a broad field including subjects like culture-specific normative power regimes that can define the sexually un/natural, ab/normal, and un/healthy; sexual meaning production; sexual/intimate citizens and citizenship as well as various sexual actors and acts (including the reproductive sex of the heterosexual couple, the changing contents of perverse pleasures and sexual subversives). Since sexual power regimes, meanings, citizens, and acts are embedded

in the cultural matrix of gender norms, the intersectionality of sexuality (sexual orientations, sexual preferences, sexual identities) and gender (gender identities, gender role identities, gender expressions) categories is readily recognized, but the interpretational potential of other category memberships, including ethnicity and class, will also be acknowledged.

First we shall focus on theoretical concepts, such as biopower (Foucault), sexual stigma (Plummer), identity threats (Breakwell), structural oppression (Young), transformation of intimacy (Giddens), minority stress (Brooks), hegemonic/subordinated masculinity (Connell), heterosexual matrix (Butler), sexual citizenship (Evans), queer intersectionality (Rosenblum), and sketch out useful general frameworks to aid us in our further analyses – followed by the (re)interpretation of empirical findings regarding patriarchal functions of intergenerational homosexuality in semen-centred societies; ethnographic accounts of third gender categories and their ir/relevance to modern transsexuality; measurement of different aspects of sexual orientation in survey research (including sexual behaviour, sexual attraction, sexual fantasies, emotional preference, social preference, lifestyle preference, sexual identity, as well as different partner preferences in each of the given aspects and certain variations in time); and the social exclusion of LGBT people.

Introduction to computer mediated statistical analysis

Instructor: Gergo Prazsak PhD

SPSS:

The aim of the course is to introduce students into the application of the tools of the most frequently used empirical social research equipment and to teach them to interpret the results of the statistical analysis.

STATA:

Creative use of statistical databases, formulation of research problems and hypothesis testing.

Programming in R:

Computer mediated modeling and statistical analysis based on a free software environment.

Brown bag seminars

Monitoring and Support

Each doctoral candidate is required to select a supervisor by the end of the second semester. Supervision of the candidate implies regular monitoring of the participation in the programme and the progress of accomplishment according to the milestones.

Supervisors are approved by the Council of the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Candidates are encouraged to spend a semester abroad.

Doctoral Degree

- After completion of the programme in full the PhD Degree of Sociology will be awarded in accordance with the requirements set by the Rector.
- Before defense the candidate is required to take the Final Exam.
- The evaluation of the Doctoral Thesis is based on the opinion of the supervisor and the evaluation of two members of the scientific community from research institutions or universities.
- The Commission is consisting of a chairperson, a secretary and two members out of the host university.
- The full Doctoral Thesis will be published electronically.

Partner Institution

TARKI Social Research Institute

- was founded in 1985 by major sociological institutions of Hungary (ELTE, MKKE, HAS, HSO)
- TARKI profile includes data-collection, archiving and statistical activities
- collected and archived more than 650 empirical social research data collections that are suitable for secondary analysis.
- TÁRKI's own surveys
- participated in the Consortium of Household Panels for European Socio-Economic Research (CHER)
- member of various international research networks and consortia , such as IFDO CESSDA ICPSR ISSP ESS and LIS
- Research Activity
 - ✓ Promote the preparation and implementation of National Action Plans on social inclusion
 - ✓ Vulnerable groups survey: the situation of Roma in Central and Eastern Europe
 - ✓ Social Protection, the challenges to social cohesion
 - ✓ Monitors and reports on trends in income distribution and social inclusion
 - ✓ Adequacy of Old-Age Income Maintenance in the EU
 - ✓ Ageing, Health Status and Determinants of Health Expenditure
 - ✓ Towards a Lifelong Learning Society in Europe
 - ✓ Households, Work and Flexibility
 - ✓ Income distribution - background studies for the OECD
 - ✓ Corporate Social Responsibility, TÁRKI Household Monitor Survey