

**ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR
CONFERENCE SERIES**

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U LISBOA

UNIVERSIDADE
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ICS

INSTITUTO DE CIÊNCIAS SOCIAIS

**ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR
CONFERENCE SERIES**

2021

665



The Advanced Studies Seminar is an annual course designed as a space for interdisciplinary dialogue and engagement with cutting-edge research in the social sciences. Its primary goal is to immerse students in innovative perspectives about the complex challenges of the contemporary world.

The programme is structured around the four Thematic Lines of the ICS-ULisboa, which reflect the diversity of issues under discussion: Citizenship, exploring the multiple contemporary challenges faced by both emerging and consolidated democracies; Inclusion and Vulnerabilities, addressing the many webs of social inequality and their consequences; Memories and Legacies, critically examining how social memory is constructed and fostering dialogue between past, present, and future; and Sustainability, focusing on how to shape sustainable futures through insights into climate change, food security, and urban transformation.

Each seminar combines sessions open to the wider academic community with masterclasses tailored specifically for the post-graduate students. This format encourages active participation, critical engagement, and direct dialogue with researchers from diverse disciplinary and institutional backgrounds. The approach ensures close alignment between learning goals and assessment, which emphasizes attendance, participation, and the preparation of critical essays. In this way, the Advanced Studies Seminar helps students develop and sharpen their theoretical and methodological knowledge, while also strengthening their ability to engage with a wide range of perspectives.

More than a course, the seminar is an intellectual meeting ground and a laboratory for critical reflection. It offers post-graduate students the opportunity to think globally, grapple with the emerging phenomena that define our time, and contribute to the pursuit of more just, inclusive, and sustainable societies.

Pedro Magalhães
Programme Coordinator

2025

28
OCT

INAUGURAL SESSION

14:00

Alice Ramos
President of the Pedagogical Council

Pedro Magalhães
Coord. Citizenship Thematic Line

Vítor Ferreira
Coord. Inclusion and Vulnerabilities Thematic Line

Cristiana Bastos
Coord. Memory and Legacies Thematic Line

Luísa Schmidt
Coord. Sustainability Thematic Line

11
NOV

Jean Segata
Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and Ca'Foscari University of Venice

10:30
Seminar

Genetic taming, subtle extinctions,
and the narrowing of Multispecies Futures in Southern Brazil

14:00
Masterclass

Multispecies Health

25
NOV

Eduardo Viola
University of São Paulo, University of Brasília and Getúlio Vargas Foundation

10:30
Seminar

The International Political Economy of Climate Policy in 2025

14:00
Masterclass

Climate Policy and Politics in Brazil in the 2020s

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DEC

Vicenzo Cicchelli
Centre Population & Développement - IRD/Université Paris Cité

10:30
Seminar

A World on the Edge:
Between Openness and Closure in Global Processes

14:00
Masterclass

Living in a Global World:
the Dynamics of Cosmopolitan Socialization

All sessions will be held in Sala Maria de Sousa

2026

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JAN

Anabela Carvalho
University of Minho

10:30
Seminar

Communication, Governance and Imaginaries
on Climate Change

14:00
Masterclass

Analysing Political and Media Discourses:
Approaches, Tools and Skills

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FEB

Ananya Jahanara Kabir
Department of English, King's College London

10:30
Seminar

The Transoceanic Creole Gardena as Decolonial Practice

14:00
Masterclass

Three Keywords for the Creole Garden:
Recycling, Resistance, and Repair

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MAR

Aleksandra Cichocka
University of Kent

10:30
Seminar

Making the Personal Political:
The Role of Narcissism in Political Attitudes and Behaviours

14:00
Masterclass

Using Large Language Models to Track National Sentiments

14
APR

Natália Alves
Institute of Education, University of Lisbon

10:30
Seminar

Constructing Learning Outcomes in Europe:
a Multilevel Analysis

14:00
Masterclass

Using the Transversal Participatory Approach:
Lessons Learnt from a Research Project

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MAY

Jan Rovny
Sciences Po, Paris

10:30
Seminar

Diversity and Democracy: Muslim Minorities
and the Support for Democracy in Western Europe

14:00
Masterclass

Democracy and Democratic Backsliding

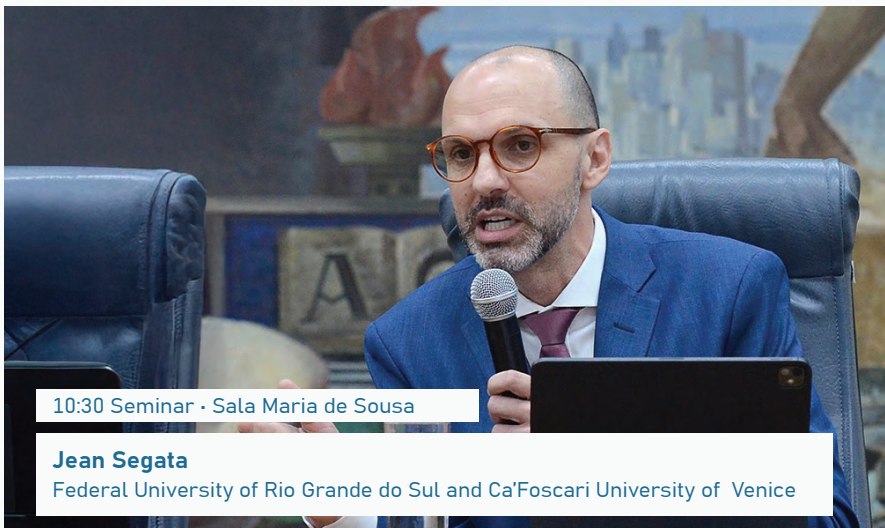
26
MAY

14:00

CLOSING SESSION

11
NOV

Genetic Taming, Subtle Extinctions, and the narrowing of Multispecies Futures in Southern Brazil



This seminar examines the transformations in the relations between humans, cattle, and the environment in the southern grasslands of Brazil, with a focus on the consolidation of British taurine breeds such as Angus, valued for their beef quality. The success of this breed in the tropics is the outcome of a prolonged process of genetic enhancement that brings together advanced biotechnologies, precise zootechnical management, local knowledge, and socio-environmental memory. More recently, the incorporation of genomics and mating algorithms has reshaped cattle breeding, altering temporalities, bodies, and reproductive functions. This technological arrangement, however, generates ambivalent effects: on the one hand, it reinforces genetic flows and positions Brazilian Angus as a distinct lineage within global beef markets; on the other, it contributes to the narrowing of multispecies futures, in which places such as the southern Brazilian grasslands become not only sites of innovation but also stages for a silent drama, where criollo breeds deemed economically inefficient vanish along with knowledges, traditions, and ways of life discontinued in the name of market-oriented modernisation.

14:00
Masterclass

Multispecies Health

Extreme climate events and emerging pandemics, the persistence of endemic and autoimmune diseases, the erosion of ecosystems, and the diffuse toxicity of agricultural and industrial chemicals are not isolated occurrences. They are interconnected manifestations of a cumulative process of life impairment that has generated increasingly chronic health, environmental, and humanitarian crises, whose etiologies converge, in different ways, on what has come to be diagnosed as the Anthropocene. Within this horizon, the notion of multispecies health takes shape, urging us to rethink illness—and therefore health and care—as collective, relational, and interdependent phenomena that exceed the human domain and involve animals, plants, microorganisms, atmospheres, and minerals. The aim of this Masterclass is to offer an introduction to multispecies health as a political approach oriented toward reconfiguring the bonds between illness, care, and collective life. Echoing two decades of ethnographic work, the Masterclass first introduces the articulation between multispecies ethnography and medical anthropology. It then discusses the limitations of emerging biosafety policies and practices in the context of tropical epidemics. Finally, it addresses the entanglement of social, environmental, and health crises through the COVID-19 pandemic and Long Covid, understood as a chronic event.

Biographical Note

Jean Segata is a social anthropologist who specialises in multispecies health, epidemics, and biosecurity interventions. He has extensive experience conducting fieldwork and developing research collaborations across Latin America, primarily in Brazil. He currently serves as a researcher at the Ca'Foscari University of Venice (Italy) as well as an Associate Professor at the Department of Anthropology at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS, Brazil), where he directs the *Rede COVID-19 Humanidades MCTI*, as well as the Centre for Multispecies Anthropology (NAM). He is also a CNPq Researcher (Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development).

25
NOV

The International Political Economy of Climate Policy in 2025



10:30 Seminar · Sala Maria de Sousa

Eduardo Viola

University of São Paulo, University of Brasília and Getúlio Vargas Foundation

International climate policy started with the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. While the International Climate Regime has failed in the purpose of reducing carbon emissions (which have grown around 2% each year since 1992), it has produced a growing public awareness about global warming and a dramatic acceleration in technological innovation and deployment of low carbon energy and technologies.

Today, four countries—USA, China, UK and India—are key players in global climate policy because of the following attributes: large populations, a large share of global climate emissions, a large share of global GDP, and significant technological capacities for decarbonisation. Three other countries are in a second tier of importance: Russia, Japan and Brazil. The EU has been at the vanguard of the climate regime from 1992 until 2021, but since 2022, there has been a vacuum of leadership. In 2015–2021 (from the Paris Agreement to the Glasgow Pact) there was significant progress in climate policy. However, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine (2022), climate policy has stagnated as a result of increasing geopolitical rivalry, and there are clear signs of backlash under the second Trump administration. COP 30 (Belém, November 2025) faces major difficulties and many uncertainties: global warming and extreme climate events are accelerating while the capacity for cooperation in the international system is diminishing. What are the deeper implications of this dynamic for the future of humanity?

14:00
Masterclass

Climate Policy and Politics in Brazil in the 2020s

Climate policy was gradually established in Brazil after the Rio 1992 Conference. The most important source of carbon emissions in Brazil has been land-use change and deforestation (particularly in the Amazon) since the 1980s. Deforestation ran out of control in the 1990s and early 2000s, but since 2004 there has been a major and successful effort at reduction (around 70% between 2004 and 2012). Deforestation control stagnated in 2013-2014 and increased again in 2015-16, accelerating rapidly during the Bolsonaro administration (2018-2022). Climate foreign policy has always been conditioned by domestic policy and, despite institutionalization, the president has always had strong decision-making power. Since 2023, the third Lula administration has followed an ambivalent policy, reducing deforestation and introducing some limited initiatives in agricultural and industrial policy, but at the same time promoting strong oil production and exports. Consequently, despite his discourse, his credentials as climate leader for COP 30 are very limited.

Biographical Note

Eduardo Viola holds a Doctorate in Political Science from the University of São Paulo (1982), and completed post-doctoral training on Global Environmental Change at the University of Colorado at Boulder (1990). He is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of São Paulo, and Professor of International Relations at the University of Brasília and Getúlio Vargas Foundation. He has been a Visiting Professor at several international universities, among them Stanford, Colorado at Boulder, Texas at Austin, Notre Dame, Amsterdam, and Lisbon. His main research areas include International Political Economy of Climate Change, Climate/Energy Policy and Politics in Brazil, Globalization and Governance, Democracies and Autocracies, and Brazilian Foreign Policy.

Latest Publications

He has published seven books, more than eighty peer reviewed articles, and more than fifty book chapters in several countries and languages. His last books are *Brazil and Climate Change. Beyond the Amazon* (New York, Routledge, 2017) and *Climate Change and Biodiversity Governance in the Amazon. At the Edge of Ecological Collapse?* (New York, Routledge, 2022). He has 410 citations in the Web of Science and more than 6,884 citations on Google Scholar, ranking among the most cited authors in Social Sciences and Humanities in Brazil. He will be Visiting Professor at Universidade Nova de Lisboa from October to December 2025.

9
DEC

A World on Edge: Between Openness and Closure in Global Processes



10:30 Seminar · Sala Maria de Sousa

Vincenzo Cicchelli

Centre Population & Développement - IRD/Université Paris Cité

Starting with major debates about the challenges and implications of globalisation for national societies, this seminar will explore the global context in which major events, such as global crises, are unfolding. Although the world is more open, connected, and interdependent than ever before, it is also more conflictual, divided, and fragmented. While unified in terms of global capitalist infrastructure and transnational circulation, the world is also deeply divided in terms of ideology, values, and politics. The seminar will address three interrelated lines of reflection: first, the tensions between centres and (semi)peripheries, focusing on the new forms of conflict at work in the global arena; second, the interplay of scales, considering the macro level of infrastructure, the micro level of agency (including questions of resistance, emancipation, cosmopolitanism, and withdrawal), and the meso level of institutions caught between national and transnational logics; and third, the dialectic between the materiality of capitalist production and the imaginary of global ideological and cultural forms.

14:00
Masterclass

Living in a Global World: the Dynamics of Cosmopolitan Socialization

Drawing on a large body of French and international research on mobility and cultural consumption, as well as on socialisation theories (Schutz, Mead, Park, Elias, Berger, and Bauman), this Masterclass aims to explore the complex dynamics of openness toward others. Cosmopolitan socialisation can be defined as the process by which individuals learn to navigate the transnational dimensions of the world around them. It is a long and circuitous process that is theoretically reversible, and at times even contradictory or incoherent. It involves the potential acquisition of a certain outlook through encounters with and exposure to alterity—including forms of contact that are imagined, real, or virtual—rather than the existence of a coherent and stable system of embodied dispositions, personal traits, and individual tendencies. Its investigation therefore seeks to answer the following main question: To what extent—and under what conditions—can the immediate environment of socialisation (and in particular the nation) still be a source of imaginaries of belonging and social bonds in an increasingly interconnected world that seems to dissociate individual lives from national contexts of socialisation, and where constant contact with multifarious forms of alterity generates a multiplicity of cultural and identity references?

Biographical Note

Vincenzo Cicchelli is an Associate Professor at Université Paris Cité and a Research Fellow at the Centre Population et Développement (CEPED, Université Paris Cité / Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)). He is the former General Secretary of the European Sociological Association, the founder of Research Committee 15, “Global, Transnational and Cosmopolitan Sociology,” at the European Sociological Association (ESA), and is the former Director of International Relations at the Global Research Institute of Paris (GRIP, Université Paris Cité). At Brill, he is Editor-in-Chief (with Sylvie Octobre) of the Global Youth Studies series (<https://www2.brill.com/gy>).

Latest Publications

Among his latest publications are:

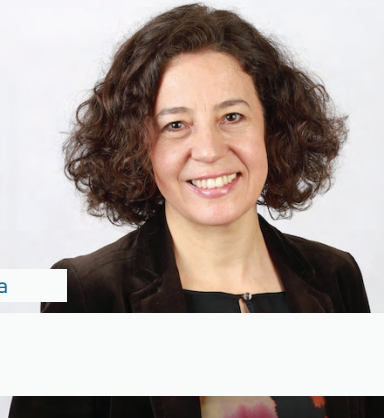
Cicchelli, V. and Octobre, S. (eds., in press). *An Alternative Globalization: Youth, Cultural Commodity, and Soft Power from East Asia to the World* (Leiden/Boston: Brill);

Cicchelli, V., Octobre, S., Katz-Gerro, T., Yodovich, N., Handy, F., and Ruiz, S. (2023). “Because we all love K-Pop:” *How young adults reshape symbolic boundaries in Paris, Manchester, and Philadelphia*. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 74(1), 17–34;

The Sociology of Hallyu Pop Culture: Surfing the Korean Wave (with Sylvie Octobre, London: Palgrave, 2021).

13
JAN

Communication, Governance and Imaginaries on Climate Change



10:30 Seminar · Sala Maria de Sousa

Anabela Carvalho
University of Minho

Over the past few decades, despite an increasingly dire outlook, pathways to address climate change have been largely constrained within the logic of market economics, which has proven inadequate. Dominant discourses have legitimised and naturalised specific policy options, facilitating their institutionalisation and material expansion while simultaneously narrowing the horizon of possibilities. Ecological modernisation and the green economy, for example, frame climate change as a matter of commodification and technocratic management, thereby obscuring structural and power-related drivers and reinforcing neoliberal economic assumptions. These perspectives have been amplified by political elites and widely reproduced across mainstream media. At the same time, strategies of denialism and evasion—particularly from fossil fuel corporations—have worked to appropriate the debate and delay transformative action. Together, these dynamics have fostered what may be described as a post-political deadlock, in which hegemonic claims that “there is no alternative” foreclose democratic contestation. In a context of growing inequalities and aggravated environmental injustices, feelings of political powerlessness and fatalism among citizens create fertile ground for authoritarian and populist tendencies. This seminar will critically examine these discursive formations while also exploring alternative sociotechnical and political imaginaries that could open possibilities for social transformation and the redemocratisation of climate politics.

14:00
Masterclass

Analysing Political and Media Discourses: Approaches, Tools and Skills

This Masterclass will start from the premise that people perceive and act upon the world through meanings that are socially constructed, rather than fixed or inscribed in reality. From a constitutive view of communication, discourse is understood not as a medium that reflects the world, but as a social practice with performative functions: it shapes how issues are defined, how social identities are constructed, and how action becomes possible or constrained. In both traditional and social media, certain voices and viewpoints are amplified while others are marginalized, reinforcing existing power relations and narrowing the range of what is seen as both possible and desirable. Political actors, through their visibility in public arenas, play a particularly influential role in shaping the accepted framing of problems and solutions, making their discourses especially important to scrutinize.

The Masterclass will explore a range of approaches to discourse analysis, with particular emphasis on Critical Discourse Analysis. It will provide analytical tools for examining how agency and responsibility are represented in texts, and how ideological and power structures are reproduced or contested. Through concrete examples, participants will develop skills for interrogating the discursive construction of pressing social challenges.

Biographical Note

Anabela Carvalho (PhD, University College London) is an Associate Professor at the Department of Communication Sciences of the University of Minho. She has been Visiting Scholar/Professor at Aalborg University (2009), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2009), University of Hamburg (2010), Wageningen University (2013), University of Antwerp (2013), and Linköping University (2017), and other universities. She has extensive research experience in environmental and science communication, particularly climate change communication. Her recent work has focused on citizens' engagement with and political imaginaries of climate change.

Latest Publications

Carvalho's publications include *Citizen Voices: Enacting Public Participation in Science and Environment Communication* (with L. Phillips and J. Doyle, 2012), *Climate Change Politics: Communication and Public Engagement* (with T.R. Peterson, 2012), and *Environmental Communication (Handbook)* (with T.R. Peterson, 2024). Carvalho has also held leading roles at the International Environmental Communication Association (IECA) and in the Science and Environment Communication Section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA).

24
FEB

The Transoceanic Creole Garden as Decolonial Practice



10:30 Seminar · Sala Maria de Sousa

Ananya Jahanara Kabir

Department of English, King's College London

This seminar focuses on the Creole Garden: a small plot of land that enslaved, indentured, and variously unfree people cultivated for fruits, vegetables, and medicinal plants. A legacy and antithesis of the plantation economy, such gardens promote biodiversity against monocropping, human subsistence over profit, and sustainable small-scale agricultural practices. A consistent feature of Creole societies, they articulate the relationship between the human and the natural environment enabled through local wisdom that survived transoceanic diasporas and accelerated capitalism. Botany, pharmacy, foodways, and horticulture become tools of resistance, recycling, and memory that create new culture from traumatic displacements and uprooting, and showcase marginalised peoples of African, European, and Asian heritage. Today, the Creole Garden functions as a decolonial space of public reparation for histories of enslavement and indenture. This lecture showcases the work of Lusophone activists and artists, including Amílcar Cabral, Dino d'Santiago, and the Greenhouse Project, to demonstrate how the creole garden responds to the connection between traumatic histories of colonialism, climate crisis, and extractive capitalism through new transoceanic conversations that cross the Indian and Atlantic Oceans; the Lusophone, Francophone, and Anglophone worlds; and African, Indian, European, creole, and indigenous cultural contributions to these spaces.

14:00
Masterclass

Three Keywords for the Creole Garden: Recycling, Resistance, and Repair

This Masterclass will further explore how the Creole Garden functions as a space for decolonial practice, focusing on three keywords, 'recycling', 'resistance', and 'repair'. It will present the results of fieldwork in the French Caribbean and Seychelles to explain how these keywords arose from my interactions with gardeners and horticultural activists in these regions. These interactions will then be discussed in relation to key texts regarding creole gardens that provided to students as prior reading, including works by Caribbean scholars as well as Sylvia Wynter, Françoise Vergès, and Malcom Ferdinand. If possible, students will also be asked to watch the documentary *Édouard Glissant: One World in Relation* by Manthia Diawara. Drawing on these comparative materials, the Masterclass will invite students to consider the extent to which the concept of the Creole Garden represents an intellectualised response to embodied gardening practices as acts of survival, and to reflect on the role of pleasure in transforming the garden into a mechanism of repair and reparation.

Biographical Note

Ananya Jahanara Kabir, FBA, is Professor of English Literature at King's College London and Fellow of the British Academy. Her research spans creolisation across the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds, critical philology, and the relationship between literary texts, embodied cultural expression, and memory work. From 2013 to 2018, she directed the ERC Advanced Grant-funded project *Modern Moves* (on the global popularity of African-heritage dance). She has been awarded India's Infosys Prize in the Humanities and Germany's Humboldt Research Prize.

Latest Publications

Ananya Kabir is completing her latest monograph *Alegropolitics* (forthcoming with Duke University Press), and developing a new Project, *Fort Creole*. Her latest publications include a co-edited special issue on *Creole Gardens as Public Spaces* for the journal *Public Humanities*, on whose editorial board she also serves.

17
MAR

Making the Personal Political: the Role of Narcissism in Political Attitudes and Behaviours



10:30 Seminar · Sala Maria de Sousa

Aleksandra Cichocka
University of Kent

In order to make informed political decisions, it is important to understand the psychological factors that influence political convictions and behaviours. Given the prevalence of narcissistic tendencies among political leaders, it is key to examine the role of narcissistic beliefs about oneself and one's social groups play in politics. This seminar will review survey and experimental research demonstrating that individual and collective narcissism can pose challenges to democratic functioning, social cohesion, as well as harmonious international relations. It will also present new studies which rely on large language models to identify narcissistic identity rhetoric in text and examine whether such rhetoric resonates with the public and predicts electoral outcomes. Finally, the implications for understanding political leadership, social movements, and policy support will also be discussed.

14:00
Masterclass

Using Large Language Models to Track National Sentiments

Researchers across the social sciences, including psychology, politics, communications, and sociology, have long been interested in understanding the dynamics of national identity—an ambivalent construct that can foster positive forms of attachment as well as defensive, divisive sentiments. Expanded access to data and advances in natural language processing offer innovative ways to track national identities and their political implications. We find that many large language models (e.g., GPT) can detect patriotic pride as well as nationalistic and exceptionalist identities in different contexts and languages with high fidelity. They are much less expensive and outperform judgements of expert researchers and crowdworkers. This approach is adaptable across languages, time, contexts, and various disciplinary conceptualisations of beliefs about the nation, helping identify and predict the nuanced working of national identities and its potential to unify as well as divide. This Masterclass will make the case for using LLMs to track national identities and discuss applications of a similar approach to other constructs participants are interested in.

Biographical Note

Aleksandra Cichocka is a Professor of Political Psychology at the University of Kent. She completed her PhD at the University of Warsaw and was a Fulbright Scholar in the Department of Psychology at New York University. She served as Vice President of the International Society of Political Psychology. Her research leverages the psychology of the self and the psychology of social groups to understand contemporary politics. She investigates topics such as ideology, intergroup relations, political engagement, conspiracy beliefs, environmental attitudes, and support for democratic practices. She is especially interested in understanding how frustration of psychological needs—and associated defensiveness—affect political attitudes and behaviours.

Latest Publications

Aleksandra Cichocka has published over one hundred book chapters and articles in various specialised and interdisciplinary outlets, including *Nature*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. Her work has been awarded several distinctions, including the 2023 Jim Sidanius Early Career Award from the International Society of Political Psychology and the 2017 Jos Jaspars Medal awarded to early career scholars for outstanding research contribution by the European Association of Social Psychology.

14
APR

Constructing Learning Outcomes in Europe: a Multi-Level Analysis



10:30 Seminar · Sala Maria de Sousa

Natália Alves

Institute of Education, University of Lisbon

This seminar is based on the results of the European funded research project *Constructing Learning Outcomes in Europe. A MultiLevel Analysis of (Under-)Achievement in the Life Course* (CLEAR) (October 2022 – September 2025), which focuses on the factors that affect the quality of learning outcomes across eight EU states (Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Spain). It will critically discuss the notion of Learning Outcomes, emphasising the de-contextualised and one-sided understanding of learning, which ignores the relevance of different actors and spaces for learning outcomes and thus turns a blind eye to the true complexity of the phenomenon. It will argue that learning and its outcomes cannot be de-contextualised from the surrounding institutional arrangements and spatial determinants, nor from the individual life courses within which they occur. As learning outcomes and the consequent level of educational achievement are inseparable from individuals' life progression, they are part of trajectories and transitions that are constructed in a reciprocal process of political, social, economic and spatial conditions, welfare state regulations and provisions as well as individual's agentic resources, decisions and investments. Thus, they result from asymmetric discursive and power relations, which are shaped by the unequal spatial distribution of economic, political and educational resources and opportunity structures, which, in turn, further shape the definitions of young people as policy addressees, for example, as 'multi-disadvantaged youth', 'vulnerable individuals', 'low-achievers' and 'school dropouts'.

14:00
Masterclass

Using the Transversal Participatory Approach: Lessons Learnt from a Research Project

The research project *Constructing Learning Outcomes in Europe: A Multi-Level Analysis of (Under)Achievement in the Life Course (CLEAR)* (grant agreement number 101061155) focuses on understanding the complex dynamics that shape learning outcomes and underachievement among young people across Europe. It moves beyond one-dimensional, performance-based views to embrace a multidimensional theoretical and methodological framework, with a strong emphasis on integrating diverse stakeholder voices.

CLEAR's design incorporated an innovative participatory approach, the *Transversal Participatory Approach (TPA)*. This approach promoted and implemented various participative activities throughout the entire project, enabling diverse stakeholders—such as policymakers, experts, practitioners, teachers, and young people—to share and discuss their experiences and views on educational achievement and learning outcomes. The TPA created opportunities for their active involvement at different stages of the research, from design to dissemination activities. Taking a participatory approach means rethinking how research is done—from how data is collected and analysed, to how ethics are handled, and, most importantly, how power relations are redefined throughout the process of creating knowledge. Participation is not just about using the right methods—it is a way of working that shapes all stages of the research process: from setting objectives, to designing tools, to making sense of and sharing the results.

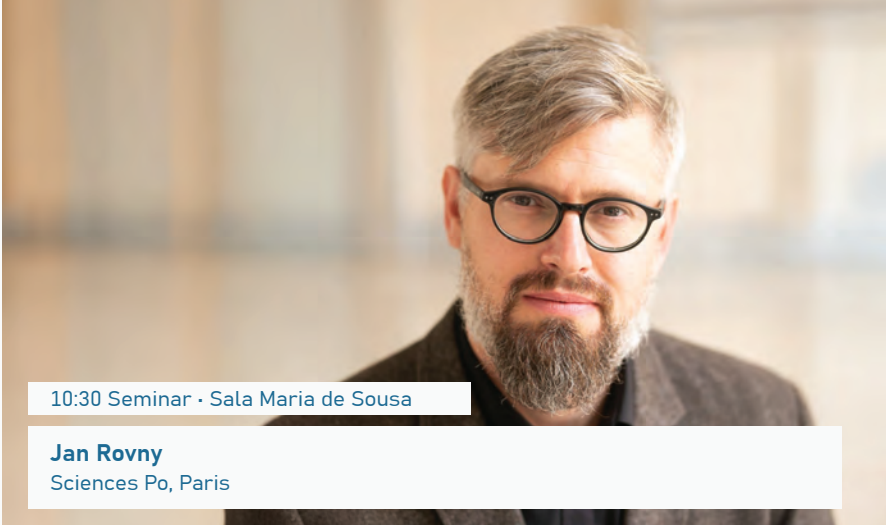
This Masterclass will discuss the methodological knowledge gained from the project's use of a participatory approach, which is grounded in the idea that knowledge can be co-produced with those who directly experience the issues being studied.

Biographical Note

Natália Alves holds a PhD in Educational Sciences, with a specialisation in Sociology of Education, from the University of Lisbon. She is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Education of the University of Lisbon, a researcher at UIDEF—the Research and Development Unit in Education and Training at the same institute—and the coordinator of the Research and Teaching Group on Education and Training Policies. She is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Würzburg (Germany). Her recent research focuses on public education and training policies for low-educated youth and adults, particularly regarding transnational, national, and local modes of regulation and their effects on individuals' life trajectories.

5
MAY

Diversity and Democracy: Muslim Minorities and the Support for Democracy in Western Europe



10:30 Seminar · Sala Maria de Sousa

Jan Rovny
Sciences Po, Paris

Can diversity and democracy coexist? This seminar studies the democratic support of Muslim minorities in western Europe. It argues that ostracised ethnic minorities—viewed as a cultural or political threat by significant portions of the majority—are more likely to support democratic institutions in order to seek legal equality and civil liberties. This search for democracy is attenuated by religious particularism and cultural conservatism. Using data from the European Social Survey and an original survey from France, the seminar demonstrates that more secular or liberal Muslim minorities, who make up most of the Muslims in our sample, are significantly more likely to support democracy than the majority. Religious or conservative Muslims do not differ from the majority. These findings suggest that, overall, western European Muslims are an asset for liberal democracy.

14:00
Masterclass

Democracy and Democratic Backsliding

This Masterclass will focus on defining the key components of democratic governance on contemporary democracies—free and fair elections and counter-majoritarian safeguards. It will address how these two components can be fundamentally at odds, and how current western societies question the value of each. It will address how political elites as well as voters approach these dimensions of democracy, potentially leading to their erosion or reinforcement.

Biographical Note

Jan Rovny is a professor of Political Science at the Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics at Sciences Po, Paris. His research focuses on political competition in Europe, with the aim of uncovering the political conflict lines in different countries. It explores the issues that political parties contest across the continent, the strategies that different parties follow, as well as the preferences and voting patterns of voters.

His main research interest is the impact of different voter profiles, particularly their ethnicity and exposure to various social risks, on their political attitudes and voting behaviour, as well as on the forms of their political representation.

Latest Publications

Jan Rovny recently published the book *Ethnic Minorities, Political Competition, and Democracy. Circumstantial Liberals*, a study on the effect of ethnic minority politics on democracy.





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