Theoretical and Methodological Issues of Cross-National Comparative Research

Organised by Hans-Peter Blossfeld

Tuesdays 11:00 - 13:00, Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana

Please register with Monika.Rzemieniecka@eui.eu

Description

This seminar is offered to researchers interested in quantitative cross-national comparative inequality research. Cross-national studies can greatly extend the scope of sociological knowledge by answering the question of whether a specific mechanism of social inequality established in one country also applies outside the particular context of this country. They also tend to deepen our understanding of cross-national differences when we give a convincing explanation of the impact of institutional and socio-structural conditions on social inequalities in various nations. The seminar gives an overview of the history of theoretical approaches studying cross-national similarities and differences as well as methodological developments affecting the practice of cross-national research. Using several (classical) application examples advantages and limitations of cross-national comparative inequality studies will be discussed in detail.

Researchers are expected to come to class fully prepared and to have thoroughly completed the assigned readings before each meeting. Participants must present and discuss the key readings from one or two meetings. For this purpose they have to send a PowerPoint presentation to the course website the night before class. These presentations will then be discussed in class together with the readings themselves. Researchers also have the possibility to present their own cross-national research designs and findings.

Researchers can write a term paper for this class as part of their general term paper requirements. They need to make significant use of the readings and topics on the syllabus and make contributions to discussions on the theoretical and methodological issues of cross-national comparative research in inequality research. Those who wish to write a term paper should consult with me and submit both a paper copy and an email copy to me (Please cc also Monika.Rzemieniecka@eui.eu). The deadline for the submission of the second term papers is 31 May 2013.
Tuesday January 8th, 2013
Introduction and Overview


Tuesday January 15th, 2013
Methods of International Comparisons


Tuesday January 22nd, 2013
Equivalence of Measures in Comparative Research


**Tuesday January 29th, 2013**
**Classical Studies I: Social Stratification and Mobility**


**Tuesday February 5th , 2013**
**Classical Studies II: Educational Systems and Social Inequality**


**Tuesday February 12th, 2013**
**Classical Studies III: Welfare State Regimes**

Tuesday February 19th, 2013
Poverty in International Comparison


Tuesday February 26th, 2013
Assortative Mating, Careers of Couples and Social Inequality in Comparative Perspective

Tuesday March 5th, 2013
Globalization and Social Inequality in Cross-national Comparison


Tuesday March 12th, 2013
Cross-national Comparison, Life Course Research, and Path-Dependence


