The Study of Institutions: Social, Economic and Political

Seminar, 2nd term 2015-2016

Organised by Stefano Bartolini

Please register online

Contact: Mariana.Spratley@eui.eu

Description
The seminar discusses the ‘pan-institutionalism’ that has come to dominate several social science disciplines in the last three decades. The review of the relevant literature is framed by an introduction of the professor and followed by the debate of the session’s main issue and of the response papers of the participants. The core questions concern what is an ‘institution’ and what is not an institution; the distinction between social, economic and political institutions; the merits of the ‘institutionalist’ approaches; the risks – and the fate – of ‘pan-institutionalism’.

Audience
The seminar is devoted to first and second year researchers, but third year researchers are welcome.

Requirements
By choosing to take this class you are taking on the obligation to reading all the materials. Over the course of the seminar students must submit two 1000-word response papers to the readings for a given session and post that paper on the course website at noon on the day before class. These response papers are fundamental for the holding of a good discussion of the materials, as is a thorough reading of the assigned texts. Response papers should not be mere summary of the assigned literature, but should engage with the proposition weakly assigned to the participants.

This seminar is worth 20 credits.

Schedule
The seminar takes place on Thursdays at 11:00-15:00, in Seminar Room 2 in the Badia, and will run from Thursday 14 January to Thursday 17 March. The full list of the seminar sessions is the following:

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PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS (NOVEMBER 2015)

1. The origins of institutions


2. Varieties of institution’s definition: what is an institution and what it is not


3. Social institutions


4. Institutions as cognitive frames


5. Economic institutions


6. Institutions and organizations


7. Formal and ‘informal’ institutions?


8. Institutions as games


9. The contribution of the ‘institutionalisms’ I


10. The contribution of the ‘institutionalisms’ II


11. Political Institutions


