The Study of Institutions: Social, Economic and Political

Seminar, 2nd term 2016-2017
Tuesdays, 17.00-19.00 – Seminar Room 2

Organised by Stefano Bartolini

Please register online
Contact: Adele.Battistini@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 everybody is 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 17:00-19:00, in Seminar Room 2 in the Badia. Please note that on 12/1 the session will be held in Seminar Room 3 and that on 26/1/2017 the session will be held in Seminar Room 4.
The full list of the seminar sessions is the following:

- Session 1: Thursday 12 January – Seminar Room 3
- Session 2: Thursday 19 January – Seminar Room 2
- Session 3: Thursday 26 January – Seminar Room 4
- Session 4: Thursday 2 February – Seminar Room 2
- Session 5: Thursday 9 February – Seminar Room 2
- Session 6: Thursday 16 February – Seminar Room 2
- Session 7: Thursday 23 February – Seminar Room 2
- Session 8: Thursday 2 March – Seminar Room 2
- Session 9: Thursday 9 March – Seminar Room 2
- Session 10: Thursday 16 March – Seminar Room 2
1. What is an institution?

2. The origins of institutions

3. Do institutions evolve?

4. Varieties of Institutions: Social institutions

5. Varieties of Institutions: Economic institutions and the economics of institutions
6. Varieties of Institutions: Institutions and organizations, formal and informal


7. Varieties of Institutions: Institutions as games


8. The contribution of the ‘institutionalisms’


9/10. What about ‘Political’ institutions?


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