

Third term, Academic Year 2025-2026

Workshop: Putting Social Science in Motion: Tracing, Following and Beyond

Time and Place: **21 and 23 April 2026**

Given by: **Jeff Checkel**

Administrative Contact: pia.dittmar@eui.eu

Credits: 10

Type of Workshop: Top-Down. It will be sponsored and given by Jeff Checkel, but taught by Checkel, Nora Söderberg (4th Year SPS Researcher) and One External Lecturer

Brief Description: This two-day workshop has four parts. We begin with a meta-theoretical and theoretical discussion of the differing ways social scientists conceptualize process, relations and dynamics. Second, drawing upon social theorists (Jon Elster) and analytic sociologists (Peter Hedström), as well as process-tracing techniques, we consider how to observe and measure causal mechanisms. Third, utilizing Bourdieu-ian sociology and practice theory, we explore how to measure and trace social practices. Fourth, drawing upon critical geography, anthropology and multi-sited ethnography, we explore the ability of following methods to access and situate objects, concepts and categories across sites. Each day, researchers – in an afternoon session – will workshop ideas for applying process/practice tracing or following methods in their own research.

Instructors: Day 1 – Jeff Checkel, Nora Söderberg & External Lecturer; Day 2 – Nora Söderberg & External Lecturer

External Lecturer: We will invite one European-based scholar who specializes in field work and whose work is at the cutting edge – in terms of conceptualization, design or method.