

Third term, Academic Year 2025-2026

## **Workshop: Revisiting dependent variables: Principal Component Analysis and Policy Synergy Analysis in political and social sciences**

Time and Place: **4-5 May 2026**

Given by: **Antion Hemerijck**

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### **Seminar Description and Objectives**

Comparative politics and sociology have long relied on typologies—of party systems, welfare states, or policy fields—to group countries with similar characteristics. Yet, such classifications often rest on broad descriptive data which can be misleading when analysing institutional change and policy performance over time. This workshop introduces Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Policy Synergy Analysis (PSA) as novel methods to test, refine, validate typologies, and account for change, helping researchers sharpen their dependent variables and revisit established debates with stronger empirical foundations.