

First Term, Academic Year 2026-2027

Field Seminar: Sociology. Main questions and building blocks

Time and Place: Tuesday 15:00-17:00, Seminar Room 2

Given by: Juho Härkönen (EUI SPS) and Herman van de Werfhorst (EUI SPS)

Administrative Contact: monika.rzemieniecka@eui.eu

Seminar description and objectives

This seminar addresses key questions, theoretical approaches and readings in sociology as a core social science discipline. Sociology is a very disparate discipline, but this course approaches it by focusing on key theoretical approaches and questions that cut through much of good sociological research. The focus of the course is on asking theoretical questions, developing theoretical arguments, and thinking sociologically. The course consists of a ten week seminar series and, for those who follow this as their field seminar, an exam. The seminar and the readings are structured under five themes: Core principles and sociological theory building, Social structure, agency and social change, Social integration and social cohesion, and Differentiation and inequality. At the end of the course, the participants should be aware of and master key questions in sociology and theoretical approaches to them. They should be able to critically assess these theories and use them to formulate further research questions and hypotheses.