ARE SOCIAL SCIENCES UNIVERSAL?

HEGEMONY AND COUNTER-HEGEMONY IN THE GLOBAL SPACE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Professor: Stéphane Dufoix
Academic year 2019/2020: Common core curriculum – Spring semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

During the last four decades or so, the universalism of the social sciences has been challenged by scholars who, either living and working in the West or in Asia, Africa, Latin America or the Arab world, contest the fact that only Western social sciences could make themselves universal and consider that this claim to universalism relies on the establishment of an epistemic hegemony. This challenge resulted in various kinds of calls: for the provincialization of Europe or of the West; for the decolonization of science; for the indigenization of national or regional social sciences etc. This course intends to offer students an access to the different issues at stake within these debates; a better knowledge of authors who are either unknown or ill-known in France; and the possibility to find their way into a most pressing and discussed debate about universalism, internationalism, globalism and particularism within the global space of social sciences.

Introduction

Lecture 1 A Geo-Epistemic vision of the World of Social Sciences

Requested reading:


Another possible reading:

- Collyer (Fran), « Global Patterns in the Publishing of Academic Knowledge: Global North, Global South », Current Sociology, 66(1), 2018, p. 56-73

First Part Regional Emergences and Alternatives
Lecture 2  The Latin American Critique of Eurocentrism and the Decolonial Approach

Requested reading:

Another possible reading :

Lecture 3  Which Autonomous Social Science in Asia ?

Requested reading:

Another possible reading :

Lecture 4  The Indigenization of African Sociological Knowledge

Requested reading:

Another possible reading :

Lecture 5

Requested reading:

Another possible reading :
- Bamyeh (Mohammed), Social Sciences in the Arab World : Forms of Presence, First Report by the Arab Social Science Monitor, Beirut, Arab Council for the Social Sciences, 2015, p. 17-33.
Second Part  Issues at Stake and Controversies

Lecture 6  Internationalizing Sociology

Requested reading:


Another possible reading:


Lecture 7  The Call for a Global Sociology

Requested reading:


Another possible reading:


Lecture 8  Fighting Epistemic Injustice and Decolonizing the Social Sciences

Requested reading:


Another possible reading:

- Grosfoguel (Ramon), « La descolonización del conocimiento: Diálogo crítico entre la visión descononorial de Frantz Fanon y la sociología de Boaventura de Sousa », in *Formas-Otras : saber, nombrar, narrar, hacer*, Barcelona, CIDOB, 2011, p. 97-108.

Lecture 9  Which Indigenization ?

Requested reading:


Another possible reading:
Third Part  Finding a Way Out?

Lecture 10  Decolonizing Methods

Requested reading:


Another possible reading:


Lecture 11  Rethinking Teaching and Writing the History of Sociology

Requested reading:


Another possible reading:


Lecture 12  Which Universalism?

Requested reading:


Another possible reading:


Stéphane Dufoix is Professor of Sociology at the University of Paris-Nanterre (Sophiapol research center) and a senior member of the Institut universitaire de France. His research topics include globalization theory, historical sociology of social science, sociological and historical semantics of concepts, and political sociology of national identity discourses.
His most recent publications include: *The Dispersion. A History of the Word Diaspora*, Leiden, Brill, 2017 (Awarded as Outstanding Academic Title by Choice magazine in 2018); *Des sciences sociales à la science sociale* (with Alain Caillé, Philippe Chanial and Frédéric Vandenberghe), Paris, Le Bord de l’eau, 2018; and *Bourdieu et les disciplines* (with Christian Laval), Nanterre, Presses universitaires de Paris-Nanterre, 2018. He is currently working on an edited book entitled *A World History of Sociology* (with Sébastien Mosbah-Natanson, to be published at Le Seuil) and on an essay about why the current importance of writing a world history of sociology (Paris, Presses de la FMSH, forthcoming in 2019).

In 2017, in coordination with Eric Macé (University of Bordeaux, France), he has set up an international team of thirty sociologists to reflect upon the actual possibility of a non-hegemonic world sociology. The seminar on Non-Hegemonic World Sociology associated to this network has been hosted by the Collège d’études mondiales (FMSH-Paris) since 2017.