SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

INSTITUTIONAL ORIGINS AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES

Professor: Carlo Barone
Academic Year 2019/2020: Common core curriculum – Fall semester (IFCO 2400)

DESCRIPTION

This course illustrates current trends of social inequalities in western countries and discusses their political implications. In particular, we assess social, ethnic and gender inequalities concerning educational attainment and achievement, labor market insertion (unemployment & overeducation), the precarisation of employment, poverty risks and social mobility across OECD countries.

Moreover, we assess the crucial mediating role of educational, labor market and welfare institutions against structural explanations of social inequalities stressing the role of economic modernisation and globalisation. Finally, we discuss the connections between these results concerning the patterns of changing inequalities and the literature concerning changing political attitudes and preferences, namely the decline of traditional class voting and the rise of extreme right and populist parties.

ASSESSMENT

Three evaluations: mid-term written test (during lecture 6, approximately 45 min, 30% of the final grade), final written test (during lecture 12, approximately 45 min, 30% of the final grade), group paper (to be delivered one week after lecture 12, 40% of the final grade).

COURSE OUTLINE

Section 1 : Presentation of the course: conceptualising and measuring social inequalities
Section 2 : Social inequalities in educational achievement in OECD countries
Section 3 : Social inequalities in educational attainment in OECD countries
Section 4 : Returns to education and overeducation in comparative perspective
Section 5: The social patterning of unemployment risks in OECD countries

Section 6: Atypical employment: causes and social consequences

Section 7: Income inequalities in global perspective

Section 8: Poverty risks in Europe: the role of the welfare state

Section 9: Social mobility in Europe

Section 10: Class voting in Europe: the death of social classes?

Section 11: Social inequalities, emerging cleavages and political attitudes

Section 12: Social inequalities and the rise of populism

READINGS

D. Grusky, 2014, *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective*. This is a facultative, suggested reading and additional, facultative readings will be suggested during the lectures.