Doctoral Seminar
Sociology of Markets

Jens Beckert / Pierre François
Fall term 2012-2013

Syllabus

General Introduction:
Markets are the core institutions of capitalist economies. They have become the most important subject field in economic sociology during the last twenty years. From the sociological perspective, markets are not just an economic mechanism for the allocation of goods but are social institutions inseparably interwoven with the political, social, and cultural environments in which they operate. The seminar aims at providing students with conceptual equipment to deal with market phenomenon. The conceptual texts and case studies read in the seminar provide insights into the different approaches in economic sociology. The seminar will rely on extensive readings on classical and contemporary literature, presentations by instructors, students and by guest speakers, and on collective work.

Seminar Organization:
- The seminar will take place in Paris, in Sciences Po (199 Boulevard Saint Germain – 75007 Paris), from January 7th to January 11th.
- Students must read all the “required readings” before the seminar. They must also read the papers presented by doctoral students on their projects.
- It is recommended to read as many of the advised readings as possible.
- Some students, more advanced in their PhD project, will have an opportunity to present their PhD.

**DAY 1 (JANUARY 7, 2013)**

13:30- 17:30

**INTRODUCTION: WHAT ARE MARKETS? HISTORICAL AND CONCEPTUAL PERSPECTIVES**


*Required readings*
Advised readings

15.30 – 17.00 Introduction – What are markets? Historical perspectives – Pierre François

Required readings

Advised readings

DAY 2 (JANUARY 8, 2012):

9.00 – 10.30 – Financial markets, money and credit – Pierre François & Jens Beckert

Required readings

Advised readings
11.00 – 12.30 – Presentation of PhD projects (with Paul Lagneau-Ymonet (to be confirmed))

Markus Lange (Free University Berlin) – “Trading with payment promises in investment banking between emotions and calculations”.

Céline Baud (HEC Paris) – “Credit under Basel II: a neoliberal device for financializing credit relationships in practices”.

14.00 – 15.30 – Guest speaker (I): Fabian Muniesa

Required readings


DAY 3 (JANUARY 9, 2013):

9.00 – 10.30 – Competition – Pierre François

Required readings


Advised readings


11.00 – 12.30 – Presentation of PhD projects

Anthony Boanada Fuchs (The Graduate Institute, Geneva) – “Coordination in market environments: Economie des conventions (Economics of Conventions) vs Action au pluriel - a different reading”.

Felipe González (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne) – "Towards a microfoundation of financialization: the consumer credit market in Chile".

13.30 – 15.00 – Open session – What have we learned so far?

15.30 – 17.30 – Documentary: Inside Jobs

20.00 – Joint dinner

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DAY 4 (JANUARY 10, 2013):

9.00 – 10.30 – Valuation – Jens Beckert

Required readings

Advised reading

11.00 – 12.30 – Presentation of PhD projects
Angèle Christin (Princeton University) – “Organizational incoherence and the ambiguities of compensation in the new media: the case of a French news website”.

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Malte Doehne (Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen, Germany) – “Seeking closure(s) - a sociological perspective on the globalizing market for fine wines”.

13.30 – 15.00 – Guest speaker (2): Marion Fourcade

Required readings

DAY 5 (JANUARY 11, 2013):

9.00 – 10.30 – Embeddedness and beyond – Jens Beckert

Required Readings

Advised readings
Barber, Bernard, 1995, "All economies are ‘embedded’: the career of a concept, and beyond", Social research, 62 (2) p. 387-413.


11.00 – 12.30 – Conclusion and feedback