



Evaluationszentrum

Wirtschafts- und sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät



COLOGNE GRADUATE SCHOOL
in Management, Economics and Social Sciences

Evaluation of the course SS 2011

Sociology of Markets - Prof. Dr. Jens Beckert, Dr. Pierre François (Sciences Po) - No. 1517.

The Course Content	No. of respondents	Mean	Standard-Deviation	Grand Mean
The advance information about the course was accurate and informative	17	1,2	0,4	1,54
In terms of breadth, depth and relevance the recommended readings were useful and sufficient	17	1,3	0,5	1,63
The course reading was easily accessible	17	1,2	0,4	1,54
the central themes of this course/seminar did match my expectations	17	1,3	0,5	1,68
How demanding were the course requirements in relation to your given level of qualification?	17	2,1	1,0	2,37
How well did the examination measures measure the knowledge of the course materials?	7	2,6	1,6	1,89
The Instructor				
The instructor was well organized and well prepared	17	1,1	0,2	1,34
The instructor was clear in his/her presentations and explanations	17	1,1	0,3	1,60
The instructor was knowledgeable in the subject matter	not enough answers			1,21
The instructor developed the overall themes of the course/seminar in a coherent manner	17	1,4	0,6	1,65
The instructor presented examples to explain complicated issues	17	1,4	0,5	1,63
The instructor had helpful and motivating teaching methods	17	1,6	0,6	1,87
The instructor made good use of media (whiteboard; overhead; beamer, etc.)	16	1,3	0,5	1,89
The instructor encouraged questions and class participation	17	1,1	0,3	1,43
The instructor directed class discussions in such way that they were stimulating and useful	17	1,2	0,4	1,71
The instructor was accessible outside seminar hours	not enough answers			1,50
The instructor provided competent feedback to the students' contributions	17	1,2	0,6	1,50
The instructor was fair and impartial in dealing with students	17	1,2	0,6	1,29
The Course in General				
The course was intellectually stimulating	17	1,4	0,7	1,63
After taking this course/seminar my interest in the given subject has increased	15	1,8	1,4	2,04
The course/seminar was relevant for my dissertation project	16	2,0	1,1	2,59
The results of the course justify the workload invested	17	1,4	0,6	1,90
In overall terms I am satisfied with the course	17	1,3	0,7	1,72
I recommend this course for future students	17	1,3	0,5	1,69

Kontakt:

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In your opinion, what topics were omitted that should have been included?

General short introduction to sociology for students of other disciplines.

These could have been more reference to different types of markets.

Maybe one discussion on how the case studies were made (design etc.) could be interesting

- The "cooperation" issue was (a bit) too centered on "truth"
- The "price" issue should be included.

The question of the technical devices supporting actors strategy on the market were well documented on the financial market but not much on the others

None. I think that we discussed a good range of topics.

- public policies

-> we could reserve the last afternoon to have a discussion about an PhD topic in order to find and deep the links with our own topic

More emphasis on other means of coordination that trust (coercion).

The question of the social process of pricing should have been more emphasized.

Participants should have more time at the beginning of the seminar to briefly present what the work on.

a little introduction for non socialists

What topics should be reduced/omitted?

cooperation

Trust - I didn't find the choice of this topic convincing for a sociological analysis of markets. Therefore the discussion was somehow limited.

The "trust" topic might have been studied in a more philosophical way, at some point, because of its nature (and even though it might have distanced us from one main object, sociology of markets).

Neo-institutional approach, though very interesting, was overrepresented. I would have liked to hear about other approaches like networks

What topics covered in the course did you find particularly valuable?

Most of them, especially the topic of trust.

The case studies.

Concerning financial crisis and historical explanations.

The value issue

- Financial market session + the film about it.
- I think the discussions about all topics were stimulating

Cooperation/Trust, Competition in markets

What topics could have been taught better? In what way?

Maybe smaller groups

The first day on the notion of embeddedness according to Polanyi, Brandel, Flijstein and Becker was really interesting: I wish it could have been longer, especially regarding Flijstein's theories/articles.

Trust -> as it is a broad and vague issue. It would be relevant to structure a bit more the stakes of the notion in the sociology of markets

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To what extent does this course/seminar overlap [in terms of content] with others? Which course(s)/seminar(s)?

Economy and Society II

none

-> What have you learned? Many many things... I really enjoyed this week

Do you have any further comments about the course?

Actually it was the best course I took part in, yet (already passed two other courses and took part in two others)! Just the movies could be reduced. Thanks a lot to Prof. Beckert and Dr. Francois!

It may be interesting to organize a future presentation of the students' field work in economic sociology, and of how the seminar's material can be applied to it.

Maybe too time consuming

Including documentaries added value to the learning experience

- We watched films. It could be good to include them in the discussion or to explicitly discuss them.

- The difference between the so called "case studies" and the other readings were not always clear to me. But that's a very minor claim.

It was a very, very hard session! Very exhausting but also stimulating.

Thanks!

- I very much liked the seminar although it could have been a bit longer: What about making it a summer school?

The only recommendation for improvement I have is the organization of the first day: there has been very little/no time for much and maybe the movie (there will be blood) could have been postponed to another day (spontaneously) since it was a very long and exhausting day especially for German students (wake up at 6:00am)... Overall, the course was very much enjoyable and interesting and the accommodation was very comfortable. Thank you!

- Discussions were very interesting and stimulating.

- Presentations were a good way to work in group -> better than the "workshop" of Tuesday morning: the issues were too vague.

Instead it would be more interesting to prepare critical discussions

- It was a very good idea to invite external scholars - authors to discuss the papers

- Maybe, it could be interesting to invite also scholars from other disciplines/fields like economics or political scientists and a professional trader, for example

The work in groups on the different themes was sometimes difficult because of the broadness of the themes - finding a structure analysis of such themes when you are 5 or 6 is not an easy task.

Except for this point, I found this seminar extremely well designed and intellectually stimulating and useful for my own work.

I personally would leave the movies out. Especially this one on Monday evening. I don't think that it has a group building function. For this purpose playing some group games or going into a pub/bar would be better. Everything else was perfect and couldn't really be done better.

Thanks a lot!

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How to interpret this report:

- All items were rated on a scale ranging from 1 (“very much”) to 6 (“not at all”).
- The first column shows the number of valid answers (excluding people who chose the option “not applicable”).
- The second column shows the mean rating for YOUR course.
- The third column shows the standard deviation, i.e. how different the students rated the course.
- The last column shows the grand mean for the respective item including all ratings given during the evaluation of the CGS courses in this semester. The total number of ratings was 90.
- Therefore, a comparison of the second and the last column allows you to interpret your result in relation to all students’ ratings.
- The answers to the open questions are shown in original wording of each student. Each row in the tables shows the answer of a different student.

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