



Course Title: Comparative and Transnational Analysis of Contemporary Societies
Lecturer: apl. Prof. Dr. Sigrid Quack

Course number	1532
Location/Room	MPIfG, Paulstr. 3, Conference room
Time	Tuesday, 10–11.30 am, beginning October 9 th 2012
Credit Points	6
Type of course	PhD course
Course Language	English

1. Objectives

Since Durkheim the comparative method has been a key heuristic of social and political analysis. Comparative-historical research has provided important impetus for social science theorizing. More recently, however, a basic assumption of comparative-historical analysis – the equation of society with the nation-state - has been increasingly questioned and critiqued for the bias and limitations of its “methodological nationalism.” There have been calls to shift social analysis to the global level in response to increasing transnational activities, relationships and horizons of actors; increasing cross-border flows of people, capital and trade; as well as the emergence of an ever denser sphere of transnational and global organizations, networks and communities. This course aims to demonstrate that comparative analysis still has an important role to play, yet needs to be adapted and combined with other heuristic and methodological approaches to encompass the transnational and global realities of contemporary societies.

The course will provide students with an overview of key approaches in comparative-historical social and political analysis, major critiques, and alternative approaches of world society and transnational analysis. Both comparative and transnational analysis will be illustrated with thematic examples and students will be introduced to landmark studies in each field. Illustrations cover issues of state formation, social class and inequality, national capitalisms, cross-border policy networks and social movements, transnational communities and European welfare regimes.

Readings will focus on contributions from sociology but also include literature from political science and organization studies, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of comparative and transnational social analysis. The aim is to stimulate critical and interdisciplinary thinking and to enable students to develop conceptual and empirical research tools for the critical analysis of a seminal book in the field, to be completed at the end of the course.



2. Prerequisites

Ideally, students should have prior academic knowledge of one of the following thematic fields: comparative-historical sociology, sociology of globalization, political sociology, international relations, global history and/or organisational studies. However, the most important prerequisite is a vivid research interest in the field under study.

3. Relevance for study programs

The course addresses CGS, IMPRS and other doctoral students, as well as MA students of the WiSo-Faculty.

4. Contents

Structure of the course:

Introduction

- Why comparative social analysis in a globalised world?

Theoretical and methodological fundamentals

- Sociological classics: Cultural comparison
- Postwar social sciences: Historical and societal comparison
- Methods of comparative-historical analysis

Thematic illustrations

- State formation – Actors and processes in comparative perspective
- Social classes and strata – Historical construction of social categories
- National capitalisms – Internal coherence and complementarity

Limits and alternatives

- Limits of societal comparison and alternative approaches
- World system and world polity theory
- Analysis of cross-border diffusion
- Transnational social analysis

Thematic illustrations

- Transnational policy networks and social movements – Dynamics of cross-border institution building
- Transnational communities and diaspora - Cross-border identity formation
- European welfare regimes –Bounded and unbounded solidarity

Outlook

- Quo Vadis: Transnationalising comparative social analysis?

The syllabus and complete reading list will be made available online before the beginning of the course: http://www.mpifg.de/people/sq/teach_en.asp



5. Working requirements and assessment method

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures, student presentations and discussion. You are expected to come regularly to class having done the assigned reading and be ready to discuss it. Since most of the reading will be in English, you should set aside sufficient time for preparing class. In addition, you are expected to complete the following assignments:

- 1) Submit **5 brief response memos** (no more than 1 single-spaced page) on the week's readings. Memos for session 2 and 3 are obligatory; the other memos can be written for a session of your choice. These memos are intended to prepare the ground for class discussions by requiring participants to set out their initial reactions to the reading in written form. Each memo should identify at least one question that you would like to discuss in class. The memos need to be posted on the *iversity platform* by **Sunday 8 pm** before the class at the latest.
- 2) Give a short **verbal presentation** of key findings of the reading and questions for discussion (not longer than 15 minutes) in one of the seminar meetings. It is appreciated if you send the presentation by email to the lecturer by Sunday evening.
- 3) Write a **book review critical review essay** (approx. 15 pages, 1,5 spaced, excluding references) in which you discuss theory, methods and results of a renowned study (to be selected from a list of books to be provided) in light of the ideas and materials discussed in the seminar. You may choose between comparative and transnational/global monographs. A critical review of a comparative study should discuss how a transnational perspective could be added and integrated with the comparative approach. A critical review of a transnational study should reflect on whether and how local and national scales are encompassed. In both cases, the essay should state the merits and limits of theorizing and methods, and develop suggestions for improvements.

A one-page proposal for the research essay containing a suggested title and an outline should be posted on the *iversity platform* by **Sunday, 13 January** at the latest and discussed in a meeting with Sigrid Quack soon afterwards.

Master students have to register for "Hausarbeiten" at the WISO-Prüfungsamt before **30.11.2012**. Deadline for submission of critical review essays is **15.2.2013**. MA students can hand in a printed version to **Mrs. Peters** at the Seminar for Sociology/library between 10-12 am. Alternatively they can hand in the essay to the lecturer before 15.2.2012 noon. It is appreciated if students also send an electronic version to quack@mpifg.de. Doctoral students should send their critical review essay in electronic form to quack@mpifg.de.



Summary of deadlines:

Assignment	Date	Time
Five response memos on reading for the next seminar session; <u>Memos of session 2 and session obligatory</u> .	14 October; 21 October	Sunday <u>8</u> <u>pm</u>
One page outline for critical review essay	13 January	-
Critical review essay	15 February	12 (Noon)

The final grade for the seminar will be based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Response memos and class participation (30%)
- Presentation (30%)
- Critical review essay – book review (40%)

8. Co-ordination/Contact

apl. Professor Sigrid Quack, quack@mpifg.de

Student assistant Carsten Gerards, gerards@mpifg.de



Date	Topic	Issues to be discussed	Form
9.10.	Introduction	Overview and planning	Presentation lecturer/ Discussion
Theoretical and methodological basics of comparative analysis			
16.10. 8-9.30 am	Sociological classics: Comparing societies and civilizations	Marx, Weber, Simmel, Tocqueville, Durkheim	Student Memos Dialogue Participants – Lecturer
23.10.	Post-WW II social science: Historical comparison of modern societies	Moore, Eisenstadt, Skocpol	Student Memos Dialogue Participants – Lecturer
30.10.	Comparative historical method	Macro, parallel and contrasting approaches	Student Presentation
Thematic illustrations of comparative approach			
6.11.	State formation: Actors and processes in comparative perspective	Ertman, Gorski	Student presentation
13.11.	Social classes and strata: Historical construction of social categories	White collar workers, cadres, Angestellte	Student presentation
20.11.	National capitalisms: Internal coherence and complementarity	Symposium on Yamamura and Streck	Student presentation
Critique and limits of comparative approach			
27.11.	“Methodological nationalism” and other critiques	Wimmer and Glick; Schiller; Beck; Tilly	Student presentation



Global and transnational sociology			
4.12.	World system and world polity theory	Wallerstein, Meyer, Luhmann	Student presentation
11.12.	Transnational social analysis	Nye and Keohane, Djelic and Sahlin-Andersson, Kearney	Student presentation
18.12.	Methods of global and transnational analysis – possibilities and limits	Werner und Zimmermann; Marcus; Levitt and Glick; Schiller	Student presentation
Thematic illustrations of global and transnational approaches			
8.1.	Transnational communities and diasporas: Cross-border identity formation	Pries, Saxenian	Student presentation
15.1.	Transnational policy networks and social movements: Dynamics of cross-border institution building	Djelic and Quack; Keck and Sikkink; Slaughter, etc.	Student presentation
22.1.	European welfare regimes: Bounded and unbounded solidarity	Ferrera, Risse	Student presentation
Summarizing and looking ahead			
29.1.	Quo vadis: Transnationalising comparative social analysis?	-	Presentation by lecturer and discussion





Textbooks and collections as background reading

Comparative historical analysis:

Skocpol, Theda (ed) (1984): *Vision and Method in Historical Sociology*. Cambridge University Press.

Vallier, Ivan (ed) (1971): *Comparative Methods in Sociology: Essays on Trends and Applications*. University of California Press.

Cross-border, transnational and global analysis:

Babones, Chase-Dunn, Christopher (eds.) (2012): *Routledge Handbook of World-System Analysis*. Routledge.

Djelic, Marie-Laure and Quack, Sigrid (eds.) (2003): *Globalization and Institutions. Redefining the Rules of the Economic Game*. Edward Elgar.

Djelic, Marie-Laure and Sahlin-Andersson, Kerstin (eds.) (2006) *Transnational Governance. Institutional Dynamics of Regulation*. Cambridge University Press.

Khagram, Shanjeev and Levitt, Peggy (eds.) (2008): *The Transnational Studies Reader. Intersections & Innovations*. Routledge.

Online sources:

Globalization Webpage Emory University (Debates, data sources, literature)
<http://www.sociology.emory.edu/globalization/about.html>

Readings by session – Required readings

October 9th, Introduction: Why comparative social analysis in a globalised world?

No reading

October 16, Sociological classics: Comparing societies and civilizations

Choose one group of readings out of (1) to (5) as assigned in class

(1) *Emile Durkheim and Marcel Mauss:*

Durkheim, Emile and Mauss, Marcel (1971 [1913]): Note on the Notion of Civilization. In: *Social Research* 38 (4): 808-813.

Swedberg, Richard (2010): A Note on Civilizations and Economies. *European Journal of Social Theory*, 13 (1): 15-30. [Focus on section on Durkheim and Mauss]

(2) *Alexis de Tocqueville:*

Smelser, Neil J. (1971): Alexis de Tocqueville as Comparative Analyst. In: Vallier, Ivan (ed), *Comparative Methods in Sociology: Essays on Trends and Applications*, pp. 19-48. [Available on Google Books].



(3) *Karl Marx:*

Warner, R. Stephen (1971): The Methodology of Marx's Comparative Analysis of Modes of Production. In: Vallier, Ivan (ed), *Comparative Methods in Sociology: Essays on Trends and Applications*, pp. 49-74. [Available on Google Books]

(4) *Max Weber:*

Roth, Guenther (1971): Max Weber's Comparative Approach and Historical Typology. In: Vallier, Ivan (ed), *Comparative Methods in Sociology: Essays on Trends and Applications*, pp. 75-96. [Available on Google Books]

(5) *Georg Simmel:*

Simmel, Georg (2003 [1908]): The Web of Group Affiliations. In: Hechter, Michael and Horne, Christine (eds.), *Theories of Social Order*. Stanford Social Sciences. Pp. 291-298.

Simmel, Georg (1971 [1908]): The Stranger. In: Levine, Donald N. (ed), *On Individuality and Social Forms: Selected Writings*. Chicago University Press. Pp. 143-149.

October 23, Post-WW II social sciences: Historical comparison of modern societies

Choose one reading out of (1) to (4) as assigned in class

(1) *Shmuel Eisenstad:*

Eisenstadt, Shmuel (1977): Sociological Theory and an Analysis of the Dynamics of Civilizations and of Revolutions. *Daedalus* 106 (4): 59-78.

(2) *Barrington Moore:*

Smith, Dennis (1984): Discovering Facts and Values: The Historical Sociology of Barrington Moore. In: Skocpol, Theda (ed), *Vision and Method in Historical Sociology*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 313-355.

(3) *Theda Skocpol:*

Skocpol, Theda (1976): France, Russia and China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 18 (2): 175-210.

(4) *Charles Tilly:*

Tilly, Charles (1994): States and Nationalism in Europe 1492-1992. *Theory and Society* 23 (1): 131-146.



October 30, Comparative historical method

Required reading:

Skocpol, Theda and Somers, Margaret (1980): The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 22 (2), pp. 174-197.

Additional reading:

Mahoney, James (2004): Comparative-Historical Methodology. *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 81-101.

November 6th, State formation: Actors and processes in comparative perspective

Required reading:

Ertman, Thomas (1997): *The Birth of the Leviathan*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-34 and 317-324. [Introduction and conclusion]

Additional reading:

Gorski, Philip S. (2005): The Protestant Ethic and the Bureaucratic Revolution. Ascetic Protestantism and Administrative Rationalization in Early Modern Europe. In: Camic, Charles Camic, Gorski, Philip S. and Trubek, David M. (eds), *Max Weber's "Economy and society"*. Stanford University Press, pp. 267-296.

November 13, Social classes and strata: Historical construction of social categories

Required reading:

Szreter, S.R.S. (1993): The Official Representation of Social Classes in Britain, the United States and France. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 35 (2): 285-317.

Additional reading:

Boltanski, Luc (1984): How A Social Group Objectified Itself. *Social Science Information – sur les sciences sociales* 23(3): 469-491.

Jürgen Kocka, “Class Formation, Interest Articulation, and Public Policy: The Origins of the German White Collar Class in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries”, in Suzanne Berger (ed.), *Organizing Interests in Western Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981), 63-82.



November 20, National capitalism: Internal coherence and complementarity

Required reading:

Symposium on the ‘origins of non-liberal capitalism’ (2005) with contributions by Mary O’Sullivan, T.G. Pempel, Gary Herrigel and Wolfgang Streeck, *Socio-Economic Review* 3(3): 545-567.

Additional reading:

Streeck, Wolfgang, and Kozo Yamamura, 2003: “Introduction: Convergence or Diversity? Stability and Change in German and Japanese Capitalism”, in Yamamura and Streeck (eds.), *The End of Diversity? Prospects for German and Japanese Capitalism* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press), 1-50.

November 27, “Methodological nationalism” and other critiques of the comparative approach

Required reading:

Wimmer, Andreas and Glick Schiller, Nina (2002): Methodological Nationalism and Beyond: Nation-State Building and the Social Sciences. *Global Networks* 2(4): 301-334.

Additional reading:

Beck, Ulrich (2007): Beyond class and nation: reframing social inequalities in a globalizing world. *British Journal of Sociology* 58(4): 679-705.

Tilly, Charles (1992): Prisoners of State. *International Social Science Journal* 131-134: 328-342.

December 4th, World system and world polity theory

Choose out of required reading (1) - (3) as assigned in class

(1) *World system theory:*

Required reading:

Wallerstein, Immanuel (1974): The Rise and Future Demise of the of the World-Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16: 387-415.

Additional reading:

Bair, Jennifer (2005): Global Capitalism and Commodity Chains: Looking Back, Going Forward. *Competition and Change* 9 (2): 153–180.

Evans, Peter (1989): Predatory, Developmental, and other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State. *Sociological Forum* 4 (4): 561-587.

Chirot, Daniel and Hall, Thomas D. (1982): World-System Theory. *Annual Review of Sociology* 8: 81-106.



(2) *World polity theory:*

Required reading:

- Meyer, John, Boli, John, Thomas George M. and Ramirez, Francisco O. (2008 [1997]): World Society and the Nation State. In: Khagram, Sanjeev and Levitt, Peggy (eds.) *The Transnational Studies Reader. Intersections & Innovations*. Routledge, pp. 359-368.
- Finnemore, Martha (2008 [1996]): Norms, Culture, and World Politics: Insights from Sociology's Institutionalism. In: Khagram, Sanjeev and Levitt, Peggy (eds.) *The Transnational Studies Reader. Intersections & Innovations*. Routledge, 369-371.

Additional reading:

- Boli, John and Thomas, George M. (2008 [1997]): World Culture in the World Polity: A Century of International Non-governmental Organization. In: Khagram, Sanjeev and Levitt, Peggy (eds.) *The Transnational Studies Reader. Intersections & Innovations*. Routledge, 474-489.
- Beck, Colin (2011): World Cultural Origins of Revolutions. *Social Science History* 35 (2):
- Beckfield, Jason (2003): Inequality in the World Polity: The Structure of International Organization. *American Sociological Review* 68: 401-424.
- Kaufmann, Jason and Patterson, Orlando (): Cross-national Cultural Diffusion: The Global Spread of Cricket. In: Khagram, Sanjeev and Levitt, Peggy (eds.) *The Transnational Studies Reader. Intersections & Innovations*. Routledge, 377-401.

(3) *Luhmann's differentiated world society:*

Required reading:

- Kessler, Oliver (2012): World Society, Social Differentiation and Time. *International Political Sociology* 6, 77-94.

Additional reading:

- Fischer-Lescano, Andreas and Teubner, Gunther (2004): Regime Collisions: The Vain Search for Legal Unity in the Fragmentation of Global Law. *Michigan Journal of International Law* 25: 999-1046, thereof: 999-1016.

December 11, Transnational social analysis

Required reading:

- Nye, Joseph S. and Keohane, Robert O. (1971): Transnational Relations and World Politics: An Introduction. *International Organization* 25 (3): 329-349.
- Djelic, Marie-Laure and Sahlin-Andersson, Kerstin (2006): Introduction: A World of Governance: The Rise of Transnational Regulation. In: Djelic, Marie-Laure and Sahlin-Andersson, Kerstin (eds.): *Transnational Governance. Institutional Dynamics of Regulation*. Cambridge University Press, 1-30.



Additional reading:

- Kearney, M. (1995): The Local and the Global: The Anthropology of Globalization and Transnationalism. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24: 547-565.
- Robertson, Roland (1995): Glocalization: Time-space and homogeneity-homogeneity'. In Featherstone, Mike, Lash, Scott and Robertson, Roland (eds), *Global Modernities*. London: Sage, 25-44.

December 18, Methods of global and transnational analysis – possibilities and limits

Required reading:

- Werner, Michael and Zimmermann, Bénédicte (2006): Beyond Comparison: Histoire Croisée and the Challenge of Reflexivity. *History and Theory* 45 (1): 30-50.
- Ebbinghaus, Bernhard (1998): Europe through the looking-glass: Comparative and multi-level Perspectives. *Acta Sociologica* 41, 301-313.

Additional reading:

- Marcus, George E. (1995): Ethnography in/of the World System: The Emergence of Multi-Sited Ethnography. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24: 95-117.
- Levitt, Peggy and Glick Schiller, Nina (2004): Conceptualizing Simultaneity: A Transnational Social Field Perspective on Society. *International Migration Review* 38(145): 595-629.

January 8th, Transnational communities and diasporas: Cross-border identity formation

Required reading:

- Pries, Ludger (2001): The Disruption of Social and Geographical Space: Mexican-US Migration and the Emergence of Transnational Social Space. *International Sociology* 16: 55-74.

Additional reading:

- Saxenian, AnnaLee (2005): From Brain Drain to Brain Circulation: Transnational Communities and Regional Upgrading in India and China. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 40 (2): 35-61.

January 15, Transnational policy networks and social movements: Dynamics of cross-border institution building

Required reading:

- Djelic, Marie-Laure and Quack, Sigrid (2010): Transnational communities and governance. In: Djelic-Marie-Laure and Quack, Sigrid (eds.): *Transnational Communities. Shaping Global Economic Governance*. Cambridge University Press, 3-36.

Additional reading:

- Keck, Margaret E. and Sikkink, Kathryn (1999): Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics. *International Social Science Journal* 51 (1): 89-101.



- Slaughter, Anne-Marie (2000): Governing the Global Economy through Government Networks. In: Byers, Michael (ed), *The Role of Law in International Politics*. Oxford University Press, pp. 177-205.
- Tsingou, Eleni (2010): Transnational Governance Networks in the Regulation of Finance. In: Ougaard, Morten, Leander, Anna (eds): *Business and Global Governance*. Routledge, 138-155.
- Dobusch, Leonhard and Quack, Sigrid (2012): Framing standards, mobilizing users: Copyright versus fair use in transnational regulation. *Review of International Political Economy IFirst*: 1-37.

January 22, European welfare regimes: Bounded and unbounded solidarity

Required reading:

Ferrera, Maurizio (2005): *The Boundaries of Welfare. European Integration and the New Spatial Politics of Social Protection*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 1 and chapter 6, pp. 11-52 and 205-253.

Additional reading:

Risse, Thomas (2011): *A Community of Europeans? Transnational Identities and Public Spheres*. Cornell University Press. Part 1, Chapter 1: Collective Identities, 19-36.

January 29, Quo vadis: Transnationalising comparative social analysis?

No reading