

Social Ontology and Political Economy

23 February – 23 March 2021

Online Registration

Access: <https://ceresresearchschool.nl/phd-activities/social-ontology-political-economy/>

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CERES is the only accredited research school in the Netherlands that offers research training to Dutch and foreign PhDs in the field of Development Studies. Among the [five courses offered this year](#), this course is specifically designed for post-fieldwork PhDs who are in the writing-up phase of their degrees, including the processing and analysing of data. It is being piloted for the first time this year by popular demand.

Social Ontology and Political Economy

Tuesday 23 February – 23 March 2021 (two lectures/day every Tuesday for five weeks)

Lecturer: Dr Karim Knio

Location: Online via Zoom

Tuition: Members: free; non-members 500 euros

Description: This course aims to emphasize the necessity and desirability of embedding thematic and empirical research within ontological debates to produce rigorous scholarly research. It introduces students to fundamental debates in social ontology and highlights their subsequent implications on political economy analysis; namely, the course focuses on two important ontological debates in their own right before it develops a cartography which charts their intersection, then this cartography is subsequently situated within the classic debate on Neo Liberalism in critical political economy literatures. In so doing, the course not only demonstrates how different approaches interpret and articulate neoliberalism, but it also reflects on the making of theoretical approaches in their own right. This should provide doctoral students with various analytical skills to help them in appropriately navigating through various academic literatures as well as situating their own research.

In principle, the course is equivalent to 8 ECTS of course work, although as this is a new course, it needs to be approved by the PhD's respective authority.

Schedule

An overview of the structure of the lectures can be found in the table below. Please note that every single lecture consists of the two sessions organized around the morning and afternoon of the same day.

WEEK	TOPIC	CLASS 1 (11:00 – 13:00)	CLASS 2 (15:00 – 17:00)
1	On Ontology and Neoliberalism	Lecture 1	Lecture 2
2	Structure / Agency Approaches	Lecture 3	Lecture 4
3	Material / Ideational Debates	Lecture 5	Lecture 6
4	Situating (Post) Washington Consensus within ontological debates	Lecture 7	Lecture 8
5	Ontological debates beyond the Post Washington Consensus	Lecture 9	Lecture 10



Readings

- Archer, M. 2010. 'Morphogenesis versus Structuration: on combining Structure and Action', *The British Journal of Sociology*, 61(1), 225-252.
- Becchio, G. and Leghissa, G. 2017. *The origins of neoliberalism: insights from economics and philosophy*, Routledge, Abingdon, Oxon.
- Bhaskar, R. 1998. 'General Introduction' in M. Archer (ed) *Critical Realism: Essential Readings*. London: Routledge.
- Bieler, A and Morton, A. 2001. 'The Gordian Knot of Agency-Structure in International Relations: A Neo-Gramscian Perspective', *European Journal of International Relations*, 7(1), 5-35.
- Blyth, M. 1997. 'Any More Bright Ideas? The Ideational Turn of Comparative Political Economy-Review Article', *Comparative Politics*, 29(2), 229-250.
- Brenner, N. Peck, J. and Theodore, N. 2010. 'Variegated neoliberalization: geographies, modalities, pathways', *Global Networks*, 10 (2), 182-222.
- Carlsnaes, W.1992. 'The Agent-Structure Problem in Foreign Policy Analysis', *International Studies Quarterly*, 6(3), 245-270.
- Dessler, D. 1989. 'What's at Stake in the Agent-Structure Debate?' *International Organization*, 43, 441-473.
- Diez, T. 2001. 'Europe as a Discursive Battleground: Discourse Analysis and European Integration Studies', *Cooperation and Conflict*, 36(1), 5-38.
- Doty, R. 1997. 'Aporia: A Critical Exploration of the Agent-Structure Problematique in International Relations Theory', *European Journal of International Relations*, 3(3), 365-392.
- Edwards, L. Cahill, D. and Stilwell, F. 2012. 'Introduction: Understanding neoliberalism beyond the free market' in D. Cahill L. Edwards and F. Stilwell (eds), *Neoliberalism : Beyond the Free Market*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 1-12.
- Fine, B. 2001. 'Neither the Washington nor the Post-Washington Consensus' in B. Fine, C. Lapavitsas and J. Pincus (eds) *Development Policy in the Twenty-First Century: Beyond the Post Washington Consensus*, London, Routledge, 1 – 27.
- Giddens, A. 1984. *The Constitution of Society*. Cambridge: Polity.
- De Goede, M. 2003. 'Beyond Economism in International Political Economy', *Review of International Studies*, 29, pp. 79–97.

Harvey, D. 2005. *A brief history of neoliberalism*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Higgins, V. Larner, W. 2017. *Assembling neoliberalism : expertise, practices, subjects*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, NY.

Hollis, M and Smith, S. 1990. 'Beware of Gurus: Structure and Action in International Relations', *Review of International Studies*, 17(4), 393-410.

Jessop, B. 2013. 'Putting neoliberalism in its time and place : a response to the debate.' *Social anthropology*, 21(1), 65-74.

Laffey, M. 2004. 'The red herring of economism: A reply to Marieke de Goede', *Review of International Studies*, 30, 459-468.

Marsh, D. 2009. 'Keeping Ideas in their Place: In Praise of Thin Constructivism', *Australian Journal of Political Science*, 44(4), 679-696.

Onis, Z. Senses, F. 2005. 'Rethinking the Emerging Post-Washington Consensus', *Development and Change*, 36(2), 263-90.

Rodrik, D. 2006. 'Goodbye Washington Consensus, Hello Washington Confusion,' *Journal of Economic Literature*, 44(4), 973-87.

Santos, A.C. and Rodrigues, J. 2014. 'Neoliberalism in the laboratory? Experimental economics on Markets and their limits', *New Political Economy*, 19(4), 507-533.

Stiglitz, J. 1999. 'More Instruments and Broader Goals: Moving Towards the Post-Washington Consensus', *UNU-Wider Annual Lecture*, Helsinki, March, at: http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/annual_lectures/en_GB/AL2/files/78091860534299239/default/annual-lecture-1998.pdf

Stiglitz, J. 2001. 'Towards a New Paradigm for Development: Strategies, Policies and Processes', in H.J Chang (ed) *Joseph Stiglitz and the World Bank: The Rebel Within*, London: Anthem.

Suganami, H. 1999. 'Agents, Structures, Narratives', *European Journal of International Relations*, 5(3), 365-386.

Wendt, A. 1987. 'The Agent-Structure Problem in International Relations', *International Organization*, 41(3), 335-370.

Wight, C. 1999. 'They Shoot Dead Horses Don't They? Locating Agency in the Agent-Structure Problematique', *European Journal of International Relations*, 5(1), 109-142.

Williamson, J. 2000. 'What Should the World Bank Think about the Washington Consensus?' *The World Bank research Observer*, 15(2), 251-264.

Lecturer

Karim Knio is Associate Professor in Political Economy and Governance at the Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam. He is the ISS academic coordinator of the Erasmus Mundus M.A in Public Policy (Mundus MAPP). Between 2014-2019, he was that Associate Managing Editor of *European Political Science Review* (EPSR). His research focuses on the intersection between international political economy, governance and public policy with a particular interest in the literatures on varieties of capitalism, variegated neoliberalism, institutional analysis, politics of crisis management, EU Neighbourhood Policies and Lebanese politics. He is the author of *The European Union's Mediterranean Policy: Model or Muddle? A New Institutional Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan 2013), and *The South China Sea and Asian Regionalism: A Critical Realist perspective*-with Thanhdam Truong (Springer 2016). His recent co-edited book (2019) with Bob Jessop entitled, *The Pedagogy of Economic, Political and Social Crises: Dynamics, Construals, and Lessons* is published by Routledge.

