Sciences Po Bordeaux

Epistemology of social science

Presentation

This class examines the conditions for ensuring the scientificity of research. We discuss the status of theoretical statements and their relationship to empirical observations. At the same time, attention is paid to the boundaries between scientific practice and other knowledge-based operations (expertise, journalistic investigations, etc.). For clarity purposes, we first present two symmetrical approaches (axiomatic and inductive approaches). We will then examine intermediate approaches (hypothetico-deductive and constructivist approaches). Attempts to go beyond these approaches are finally considered. In all cases, we will look at the epistemology of the natural sciences (Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos, Feyerabend, etc.), the epistemology of the social sciences (Durkheim, Weber, Bourdieu, Passeron, Foucault, etc.) and the sociology of science (Bourdieu, Latour, Bloor, etc.) to find complementary tools.

In brief

ECTS credits : 2.0
Number of hours : 18.0
Teaching term : Six-monthly
Teaching activity : Lecture course
Year : Fourth year
Validation : Final written examination

Contacts

Responsible(s)

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Bibliography

* Berthelot J.M. (dir.), *Épistémologie des sciences sociales*, Paris, PUF, 2012.
* Chalmers Alan F., *Qu'est-ce que la science ?*, Paris, Éditions La Découverte, 1990.
* Dubois M., *Introduction à la sociologie des sciences*, Paris, PUF, 1999.
* Gingras Y., *Sociologie des sciences*, Paris, PUF, 2013.