



## Sociology of expertise

### Presentation

The class invites students to reflect on the social construction of legitimate knowledge and the relationship between technocracy and democracy. We will take as a starting point the question of "economic expertise": the goal is to specify the conditions under which a particular interpretation presents itself as "neutral" and "objective", to the point of standing in the way of alternative interpretations or at least of restricting elected officials' room for manoeuvre. The class sessions will be opportunities to approach the question from complementary angles: the transformation of an academic discipline into a "science of government"; the involvement of researchers in politics; the training of high ranking civil servants and the development of State expertise; the legitimization of certain types of knowledge by international organizations; the role of consultants (employed in auditing and consulting firms); the "locking in" of certain sectoral policies.

### In brief

**Number of hours :** 18.0  
**Teaching term :** Six-monthly  
**Teaching activity :** Seminar  
**Year :** Fifth year  
**Validation :** Continuous assessment

### Contacts

#### Responsible(s)

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## Bibliography

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- Berard Y., Crespin R. (dir.), *Aux frontières de l'expertise. Dialogues entre savoirs et pouvoirs*, Rennes, PUR, 2010.
- Berrebi-Hoffman I., Lallement M., *À quoi servent les experts ?*, Cahiers internationaux de sociologie, n°126, 2009.
- Delmas C., *Sociologie politique de l'expertise*, Paris, La Découverte, 2011.
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- Dumoulin L., La Branche S., Robert C., Warin P. (dirs.), *Le recours aux experts. Raisons et usages politiques*, Grenoble, PUG, 2005.