



Doctoral programme The humanities and social sciences 2020/21

Schedule of lectures:

THEORIES OF SOCIETY

Academic year 2020-2021

Weekly sessions: Tuesdays, 17-20h

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uni-lj-si.zoom.us/j/92205488877?pwd=cThhK1JoN3paM3d6c2dFaFM1czRTUT09>

Meeting ID: 922 0548 8877

Passcode: 467774

1. October 27, 2020

**prof. dr. Aleksandra Kanjuo Mrčela, prof. dr. Igor Lukšič,izr. prof. dr. Marko Milosavljević,
prof. dr. Peter Stanković**

Introduction to the course

Meeting with four course coordinators.

2. November 6, 2020 (14:30 – 16:00)

Mike Savage (London School of Economics)

Michael Savage is a British sociologist and academic, specialising in social class. Since 2014, he has been the Martin White Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He previously taught at the University of Manchester and the University of York.

Zoom: <https://uni-lj-si.zoom.us/j/91523704202>

Meeting ID: 915 2370 4202

The geo-politics of global inequality

Summary:

This lecture will reflect on how global inequality trends are involved in the remaking of broader social inequalities associated with class, gender and race. I will explore on how increasing economic

inequalities are associated with the formation of powerful elites across many parts of the globe. I consider how these elites are driving neo-imperial projects which are implicitly and explicitly challenging national autonomy. My lecture will thereby seek to reflect on my own research on reviving racism in the UK and synthesise these with broader arguments in economics and sociology.

Required reading:

Flemmen, M. and Savage, M., 2017. The politics of nationalism and white racism in the UK. *The British journal of sociology*, 68, pp.S233-S264.

Simson, R. and Savage, M., 2020. The global significance of national inequality decline. *Third World Quarterly*, 41(1), pp.20-41.

3. November 10, 2020

Igor Lukšič (University of Ljubljana)

Igor Lukšič is Professor of Political Science at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. He is head of the Department of Political Theory at the Faculty of Social Sciences. His research includes political theory, political anthropology and history of political ideas.

Apolitical democracy

Summary:

Democracy has always been a political project with a great goal to widen emancipation of the individual and of the people. Neoliberalism transformed that project in a-political or even anti-political with making democracy just a formal technique. The lecture will present contradictions of the democratic project in a modern period through ideas of Kant, Hegel and Marx. From the introduction of capitalism, the process of concentration of capital has always required a concentration of political power: at the beginning on the level of nation-state, in some cases in the form of state-capitalism and dictatorship, today more and more in the hands of different institution of the "international community". Can democracy as emancipatory and political project survive?

Required reading:

Charles S. Maier: Democracy since the French Revolution. In: Dunn, John. 1992. (ed.) The Unfinished Journey 508 BC ad 1993. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Cape Town. (125-151)

4. November 17, 2020

Tihomir Cipek (University of Zagreb)

He is a political scientist, full time professor, and the Head of the Croatian Politics Department at the Faculty of Political Science. In 2006 he won the Croatian National Award for Science. He was a visiting professor and researcher at the University of Göttingen, Marburg an der Lahn, Vienna, Bonn, Bratislava, London, Ljubljana and at the Institute for the Science of Man in Vienna. He is a member of the International Editorial Board of "The International Encyclopedia of Political Science" published by APSA. He is also a member of the editorial board of the journal "Annals - Croatian Political Science Association," and "Journal of Contemporary History", is also a member of the Editorial Council of the "Yearbook-Faculty of Political Science-University of Belgrade" and "Yearbook-Faculty of Political Science-University of Sarajevo." The subject of his research interests are political ideologies, comparative politics and European studies. He has written two books and is the editor and co-editor of seven books. Apart from Croatian, he also publishes texts in German, English and Polish.

Ideology of Russian Conservatives

Summary:

The lecture will point to the main features of the relationship with the West in the ideology of the Russian Conservatives. First of all, it will be pointed to the differences in the understanding of the West between the "Westerners" and the "Slavophiles". Than Dostoyevsky's ideas will be presented i.e. it will be explained why those ideas were popular among the German theoreticians of the conservative revolution. In the second part, the ideas of Nobel prize winner Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and the ideas of

Oscar winner Nikita Mihalkov will be demonstrated. It will be explained why they believe in "enlightened conservatism" and respect Vladimir Putin's statehood. Finally, through the reconstruction of Putin's policy of history his understanding of the Russian nation will be elucidated. It will be argued that Putin is actually "Eurofile" rather than "Slavophile" – Putin does not support the idea of Eurasia as well as the ideology of Aleksandr Dugin.

Required reading:

Tihomir Cipek: Ruske politike povijesti i Oktobarska revolucija. Politička misao, 2018. (pdf)

5. November 24, 2020

Aleksandra Kanjuo Mrčela (University of Ljubljana)

Aleksandra Kanjuo Mrčela is a professor of the Sociology of Work and Economic Sociology at the University of Ljubljana's, Faculty of Social Sciences. Her teaching and research activities are in the fields of industrial relations, work and organisation, gender. From 1999-2001 she was a visiting scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (at the department of Industrial Relations). Since 2003 she is the coordinator of the national center for Eurofound at FSS. Since 2004 she is a member of the Network of Experts in the Fields of Employment, Social Inclusion and Gender Equality Issues (European Commission). From 2011 she is an associate editor and from 2015 an editor of Social politics (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994).

Platform Capitalism

Summary:

In recent decades, we have seen accelerated development of platform economy characterized by global presence of new forms of work organization supported by information and telecommunications technology. The trend of rapid growth and the success of the business model of platform economy are based on the destandardization and precarization of work and the externalization of business operating costs and risks. As the new type of economy deepens the unequal power relations between labor and capital, the concept of "platform capitalism" is used to describe current economic and social changes (Srnicsek, 2017; Kenney and Zysman, 2016; Langley and Leyshon, 2017; Murillo et al., 2017. Wark (2004, 2019) focuses on the new class arrangement - the emergence of a new ruling class - "vectorial capitalists", whose power is provided by privatization and control over information and »hacker class« that faces difficulties of solidarity building in the situation of the emergence of a more aggressive labour rationalization and commodification.

Required reading:

Wark, McKenzie. 2019. The Capital is Dead. London, New York: Verso

Oct 15, 2019. McKenzie Wark in conversation with Natasha Lennard, for the book launch of Wark's "Capital Is Dead: Is This Something Worse?" available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wBZVEngocI>

6. December 1, 2020

Peter Stanković (University of Ljubljana)

Peter Stanković (1970) is Professor at Department of Cultural Studies, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He specializes in cultural studies, film studies, popular music, food studies and identity politics. His recent publications include a monograph on the history of Slovenian cinematography and several articles on popular music heritage, food as a medium of cultural exchange, and mechanisms of symbolic exclusion of immigrants from the other former Yugoslav republics in Slovenia.

Rancière and the Politics of Aesthetics

Summary:

After Bourdieu's critique of art as a mechanism of reproduction of class differences, art has become almost something like an opponent in the critical project of cultural studies. In recent years, however, there is a notable surge of voices that argue that art could be understood as an important tool of emancipatory politics as well. One of the most important theorists, who think in this way, is Jacques Rancière. His work is based on a synchronic and diachronic analysis of three different regimes of art that constitute three different relationships toward society. These regimes are ethical, representative in aesthetic. According to Rancière, it is only the aesthetic regime that is connected to life and therefore capable of changing it (together with wider social circumstances).

Required reading:

Jacques Rancière (2006): *The Politics of Aesthetics: The Distribution of the Sensible*. London: Continuum. Str.20–30. <https://selforganizedseminar.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/rancic3a8re-jacques-politics-aesthetics-distribution-sensible-new-scan.pdf>

7. December 8, 2020

Ondřej Daniel (Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Praha)

Ondřej Daniel earned his PhD from the Faculty of Arts at Charles University with specialization on postsocialism, nationalism, migration and popular culture. He published 30+ studies, authored two and co-authored another two books summing up his research on topics merging class and popular culture in post-socialist societies. He is a founding member of Centre for Study of Popular Culture.

Brave New World: Music, Youth and Class in Czech Post-socialism

Summary:

In this study, I aim to enlighten relations of popular music to the social class, focusing to the cultural practices performed by and produced for young people. Cultural practices of popular music in post-socialism had a wide variety of forms. Among other, one could choose from a new and fashionable clubbing, retro of 1960s and 1970s rock, indie, new wave, punk rock, heavy metal, Eurodance or by mid-1990s even a nostalgic revival of depoliticised late socialist culture. Transformation of the institutional-organizational background carried by the advent of the market economy, which significantly accelerated not only the stratification of the style-genre spectrum, had a number of socio-cultural consequences – the very redefinition of categories such as “alternative”, “underground”, “official”, “unofficial”, “independent”, etc., was closely related to the identity of young Czech music life bearers. Research data contains song interviews, lyrics, reviews, all sorts of paratextual traces, musical videos, pictures of the musical interprets, journals, fanzines and magazines articles, institutional and expert materials. The methodological basis of the research project is historical analysis. Class structure, present even during the state socialist rule despite the communist dictatorship, re-emerged as an important societal marker during the post-socialism. Notwithstanding the fact the Czech society continued to be relatively egalitarian compared even to its Polish or Hungarian, cultural production started in the same time to mirror and to reinforce the class determinants.

Required reading:

DANIEL Ondřej, MACHEK, Jakub, Lontáci and Luftáci: Researching the Urban/Rural Opposition in Contemporary Czech Society Through Online Discussions. In FIŠEROVÁ, M., MACHEK, J. et al. *New Mediation, New Pop-Culture?* Prague: Metropolitan University Prague Press 2015, p. 70-91.

8. December 15, 2020

Slavko Splichal (University of Ljubljana)

Slavko Splichal is Professor of Communication and Public Opinion at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Social Sciences, fellow of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and regular member of Academia Europaea. He is founder and director of the European Institute for Communication and

Culture and Editor of its journal *Javnost-The Public*. He was a member of the International Council and Deputy Secretary General of the International Association for Media and Communication Research and has been on the editorial boards of the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Journal of Communication*, *Journalism Studies*, *Gazette*, *New Media and Society* and many others. Since 2011 he has been Chair of the Advisory Board of the European Communication Research and Education Association ECREA. His English-language books include *Public Opinion: Developments and Controversies in the Twentieth Century* (Rowman & Littlefield, 1999), *Principles of Publicity and Press Freedom* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2002), *Ferdinand Toennies on Public Opinion* (with H. Hardt, Rowman & Littlefield, 2004), *Transnationalization of the Public Sphere and the Fate of the Public* (Hampton 2012) and *The Liquefaction of Publicness: Communication, Democracy and the Public Sphere in the Internet Age* (editor, Routledge 2018). His research interests include communication and public sphere theory, media politics, public opinion, and communication research methods.

A farewell to the public/ness? Transformations of the public sphere in the age of integrated public-private communication networks

Summary:

The lecture addresses historical tendencies in reconceptualizations of publicness and related concepts – the public, public opinion and the public sphere –, which have attempted at ‘expanding’ the concepts to new empirical settings (e.g. new technologies, business models, political regimes) rather than introducing genuine normative/theoretical innovations. These endeavours involve risks of bringing back into the conceptualization of the public/sphere characteristics and ideas that had initially been excluded or opposed to the concept (e.g. mass vs. public – ‘mass public’) and, thus, abandoning the elementary critical string of publicness as a critical concept, which alone can identify research on social phenomena that refer to the critical idea of the public.

Required reading:

Slavko Splichal, “Publicness-privateness: the liquefaction of the great dichotomy.” In Slavko Splichal (ed.), *The liquefaction of publicness: communication, democracy and the public sphere in the internet age*. London, New York: Routledge, 2019, 1-10.

Slavko Splichal, “Privacy.” In Klaus Bruhn Jensen (ed.), et al, *The international encyclopedia of communication theory and philosophy*. Chichester, UK; Hoboken, NJ: J. Wiley & Sons, 2016, 1604-1613.

Slavko, Splichal, “Publicness, publicity.” In Klaus Bruhn Jensen (ed.), et al., *The international encyclopedia of communication theory and philosophy*. Chichester, UK; Hoboken, NJ: J. Wiley & Sons, 2016, 1702-1710.

9. January 5, 2021

Stefano Guzzini (Uppsala University, PUC-Rio de Janeiro, Danish Institute for International Studies)

Stefano Guzzini’s research and teaching focuses on international theory, foreign policy analysis and critical security studies, as well as on qualitative methodologies. His research was published in leading journals and in nine books, including *Realism in International Relations and International Political Economy: The Continuing Story of a Death Foretold* (1998, translated into Chinese, Czech, Italian, Polish, and Romanian), *The Return of Geopolitics in Europe? Social Mechanisms and Foreign Policy Identity Crises* (2012, translated into Portuguese), and *Power, Realism and Constructivism* (2013), unanimous winner of the ISA Theory Section Best Book Award. He is currently co-editor of *International Theory* and the *Bristol Studies in International Theory*. He held visiting professor positions at the Universities of Bremen, Ljubljana, Lublin, and Autónoma de Madrid, was visiting scholar at Cornell University, and a fellow at the Hanse Institute for Advanced Studies, as well as the Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin. He is particularly known as a driving force behind the development of IR scholarship in Central and Eastern Europe. He was associate professor at the Central European University (Budapest, 1994-2000), chairing its International Relations and European Studies Program when it was turned into a department and established its new PhD program. From 2013-2019, he served as President of the Central and East European International Studies Association (CEEISA).

Theorising social mechanisms: the return of geopolitics in Europe

Summary:

The end of the Cold War demonstrated the historical possibility of peaceful change and seemingly showed the superiority of non-realist approaches in International Relations. Yet in the post-Cold War period many European countries have experienced a resurgence of a distinctively realist tradition: geopolitics. Geopolitics is an approach which emphasizes the relationship between politics and power on the one hand; and territory, location and environment on the other. In this lecture, using a constructivist approach to foreign policy analysis, I will argue that the revival of geopolitics came not despite of, but because of, the end of the Cold War yet not in the way anticipated by realists. Disoriented in their self-understandings and conception of external roles by the events of 1989, many European foreign policy actors used the determinism of geopolitical thought to 'fix' their place in world politics. The revival is a response to a perceived foreign policy identity crises. Yet, such revival is not innocent since the geopolitical tradition mobilises a militarisation of politics and an essentialisation of identities, all of which happened in the 1990s, well before 9/11. For carrying out this analysis, I develop a methodology to study causal mechanisms within an interpretivist understanding of process-tracing. .

Required reading:

Stefano Guzzini: Militarizing politics, essentializing identities: Interpretivist process tracing and the power of geopolitics. *Cooperation and Conflict* 2017, Vol. 52(3) 423–445. (e- version)

10. **January 12, 2021**

Alena Kižkova (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences)

Alena Křížková is Head of the Gender & Sociology Department of the Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences. She received her Ph.D. in sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. In 2014 – 2015 she conducted Fulbright Fellowship at Arizona State University for comparative CZ – US research on entrepreneurship environment for disadvantaged populations and gender equality. She uses qualitative and quantitative methodology and develops the intersectional approach to research of social inequalities. Her research focus is on women´s economic independence, economic and social justice, work/life balance, gender in organisations and in entrepreneurship and on violence against women. She is the Czech country expert in the "Scientific analysis and advice on gender equality in the EU" (SAAGE) for the European Commission, a member of the Committee for Equal Representation of Women and Men in Decision-making Positions and in Politics of the Czech Government Commission for Equal Opportunities of Women and Men and a member of editorial board of the Gender and Research journal.

Gender pay gap as a complex social problem**Summary:**

Gender pay gap is a very complex social phenomenon which affects not only individual lives but the whole economy. Its causes can be found at workplace, policy as well as structural level of the labour market. Among its consequences are feminisation of poverty, gender pension gap but also intimate partner violence. There are many actors involved in this problem at all levels of the society. In this lecture I will chart this problem with various types of data (mainly using the case of Czechia) - linked employer - employee data, public opinion survey as well as qualitative interview data. I will illustrate the complexity of this problem and possible solutions also with selected sociological theories and approaches.

Required reading:

Michelle J. Budig, Joya Misra, Irene Boeckmann, The Motherhood Penalty in Cross-National Perspective: The Importance of Work–Family Policies and Cultural Attitudes, *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, Volume 19, Issue 2, Summer 2012, Pages 163–193, <https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxs006>

11. **January 19, 2021**

Victor Pickard (Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania)

Victor Pickard was a **Visiting Fellow at** London School of Economics and Political Science from September 2019 – 2020, at Goldsmiths, University of London, Sept. 2019 – Aug. 2020, and **Visiting Associate Professor**, Cornell University, July 2018 – January 2019. He is a **Co-Director** (with Todd Wolfson) of Media, Inequality, and Change (MIC) Center, from 2018. Recently he published a book *Democracy Without Journalism? Confronting the Misinformation Society* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Imagining a Democratic Future for Digital Journalism

Summary:

By uncovering degradations caused by run-amok commercialism, this talk brings into focus the historical antecedents, market failures, and policy inaction that led to the implosion of commercial journalism and the proliferation of misinformation through both social media and mainstream news. I argue that these problems stem from the very structure upon which profit-driven news and information systems are built. The market never supported the levels of journalism — especially local, international, policy, and investigative reporting — that a healthy democracy requires. In addressing these long-term defects, I envision what a new kind of journalism might look like, emphasizing the need for a publicly owned and democratically governed media system. Amid growing scrutiny of unaccountable monopoly control over media institutions and concerns about the consequences to democracy, now is an opportune moment to address fundamental flaws in commercial news and information systems and push for alternatives. Ultimately, the goal is to reinvent journalism.

Seminars:

1. January 26, 2021 Aleksandra Kanjuo Mrčela

Jones, Pip; Liz Bradbury. 2018. *Introducing social theory*. Third Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.

2. February 2, 2021 Igor Lukšič

Pierre Rosanvallon. 2008. *Counter-Democracy. Politics in an Age of Distrust*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

3. February 9, 2021 Peter Stanković

Chris Barker (2002): *Making Sense of Cultural Studies. Central Problems and Critical Debates*. London, Sage, str. 45–85 in 108–175. Smith, Philip in Riley, Alexander (2009): *Cultural Theory: An introduction* (Second Edition). Malden: Blackwell, str. 195–206 in 262–279

4. February 15, 2021 Marko Milosavljević

Victor Pickard: *Democracy Without Journalism? Confronting the Misinformation Society* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Required readings:

1. Jones, Pip; Liz Bradbury. 2018. *Introducing social theory*. Third Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.
2. Pierre Rosanvallon. 2008. *Counter-Democracy. Politics in an Age of Distrust*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

3. Chris Barker (2002): Making Sense of Cultural Studies. Central Problems and Critical Debates. London, Sage, str. 45–85 in 108–175. Smith, Philip in Riley, Alexander (2009): Cultural Theory: An introduction (Second Edition). Malden: Blackwell, str. 195–206 in 262–279.
4. Victor Pickard: Democracy Without Journalism? Confronting the Misinformation Society (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Course Requirements and final examination:

The course is structured in four lectures by four course coordinators, invited guest talks and four concluding seminars with coordinators. The course outline indicates the required readings for each meeting. Each class meeting will combine lecture, discussion and students' responses to the readings. All readings listed above are required readings and are to be read prior to the class meeting. It is therefore essential that students are familiar with them prior to each lecture or seminar. Students can use their initiative and seek out additional scholarly and non-scholarly resources. Students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars and each student should respond to the weekly readings by contributing a position paper - between 300-400 words.

Evaluation will be based on the participation and a final examination. In the two-hour examination students will receive four problem questions. Performance evaluation will be based on four short essays that respond to four questions referring to the assigned readings. Students are expected to demonstrate a close reading of the required texts and exhibit a method of critical analysis at an advanced level. Each of the four essays will be evaluated separately by four coordinators of the course. Students are required to perform satisfactorily in all four essays and receive a minimum grade 6 for each of the four short essays.