

SciencesPo

Collège universitaire / Reims campus
2020 Winter School

Science and Society

Teachers

Lecturer: Thomas Tari (thomas.tari@sciencespo.fr),
Sociologist @ Sciences Po médialab and Director of Forccast
Seminar Teachers: Valérie Arnholdt, Raphaël Danino-Perraud, Simon Gérard,
Laurène Le Cozanet, Théo Leschevin, Germain Meulemans, Inès
Mosgalik, Benjamin Raimbault, Pierre Robicquet et Thomas Tari

Pedagogical Goals

Innovations in science and technology have become prominent in the organisation and functioning of modern society. Consequently, they raise a number of questions which cannot be answered by scientists only. Beyond the sole importance of science and technology policies, other issues (i.e. climate, health, food, urbanism and security-related) call for a reassessment of relations between science and society.

The course is based on *science and technology studies* and introduces students to the process of knowledge production through anthropological, historical and sociological approaches.

Course Structure

The one-week course is divided into a ten-hour lecture and a series of seminar sessions.

During the lecture, students will explore the diversity of scientific institutions and of reasoning processes, and will analyze the relationship between scientific issues and technological or political stakes, for instance in terms of public expertise. Divided into classes of 24, students will simultaneously take an eight-hour seminar, allowing them to get a more practical understanding of social stakes in science through the study of past or contemporary controversies. Seminars are structured around a limited number of thematic

corpora, out of which students will be able to choose one topic on which to concentrate and work in depth.

Evaluation

The evaluation for the seminar will be composed of an individual and a collective grade:

- first, a two-hour exam will take place at the end of the week. The students will have to read and describe a corpus of documents, following the method used during the seminars and mobilizing the concepts acquired through the lecture. A few questions will guide them through the analysis. (50% of the final grade)
- second, students will work in a group of 3 in order to produce an approx. ten to fifteen-page online paper (including references) on a chosen controversy. The topics (once validated by the seminar teacher) can be inspired by, and the methodology will follow the one taught through, the exploration of the thematic corpus during the seminar (50% of the final grade). The deadline is set to mid-February.

Winterschool Teaching Programme

	Lecture (10 hours)	Seminar (8 hours)
Day 1 (Monday 20 Jan.)	General Introduction (1h) The Gender of Science (2h)	The students will explore one thematic corpus among the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Glyphosate Controversies: Risk Assessment in the EU- Revolutions in Astronomy and Politics during the 19th cent.- Living with HIV-AIDS: Politics of Knowledge in an Epidemic- The Domestication of What: A Political Economy of Grains
Day 2 (Tuesday 21 Jan.)	Sociotechnical Perspectives A Politics of Things (3h)	
Day 3 (Thursday 23 Jan.)	Rethinking Expertise through Controversies (2h)	
Day 4 (Friday 24 Jan.)	Environmental History and Sociology (2h)	
Saturday 25 Jan.	Two-hour exam - analysis of a “Science and Society” corpus	