

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Imagination and social change (2PS2150)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master of Arts en innovation, orientation Innovation et société	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal B A - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire B A - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Hana Hawlina

Oliver Clifford Pedersen

Contenu

Social change is often seen as a big and inevitable tidal wave that sweeps up individuals and carries them forward without any active participation or agency of their own. On the other hand, we have ideas of social change driven by great men, such as Martin Luther King Jr. or Mahatma Gandhi, who had a dream, become the change they wanted to see in the world and led the masses to freedom from colonial and racist constraints. What are the relations between individuals, their capacities for imagination and creative meaning-making, and seismic transformations on the societal level? How do radical ideas emerge, become shared and inspire collective action? Why are some social institutions so resistant to change? Ultimately, what understanding the psychology of the imagination contribute to the understanding of societal transformations?

The course will offer an overview of interdisciplinary theories of the imagination in conjunction with the classic and contemporary theories exploring social change from a psychological perspective. Students will learn to apply the theoretical framework to critically analyse past and current social movements and attempt to achieve a better comprehension of the complexities of an unfolding and ever-shifting world. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be on the imagination and its role in constructing and transforming the social, including the role of art in protests, the contributions of social networks and internet memes in shaping the representations of the refugee crisis, and imagining the future of global climate change.

The course will be given in English, however the students can submit their final assignment in their preferred language (English or French).

Forme de l'évaluation

Student will work in groups to analyse a case of social change using the theoretical framework of sociocultural psychology and related disciplines. They will present it in class (30% of final grade) and submit a written assignment in English or French (70% of the final grade). Students will also participate in a research project throughout the semester. Details of the evaluation will be presented during the first session on Wednesday, September 16th.

For the first attempt, the first deadline is on January 27th and the second on April 10th (students can choose on which deadline to submit their assignment).

For the second attempt, the deadline is July 13th.

Pré-requis

(The ability to follow the course and engage with reading material in English. The course will present a supportive environment for learning and expressing ideas in English.)

Forme de l'enseignement

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The sessions will be a combination of interactive lectures, discussions of required readings, sessions where we analyse different aspects and cases of social change (e.g., analysing Covid-19 memes, changing utopias, imagining the future of global climate change). The list of required readings will be available on Moodle.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Discover an overview of methodological approaches to study the relation between imagination and social change
- Develop a critical reflection (on class readings and media discourses)
- Apply theoretical concepts to understand complex psychosocial and political situations
- Communicate in a clear academic writing style, including structuring the argument in a critical and creative manner
- Review and evaluate relevant literature
- Discuss texts and current events, defend a position, identify key issues
- Explore self-reflection on one's own position and possibilities of acting
- Observe one's own processes of imagining the social and its future
- Compare theories of the imagination
- Define imagination from the perspective of sociocultural imagination

Compétences transférables

- Communicate in a second language
- Carry out a critical analysis
- Discuss complex issues
- Generate new ideas (creativity)
- Apply knowledge to novel situations
- Demonstrate intellectual rigour and curiosity