

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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Imagination and governing the future (2PS2165)

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

Equipe enseignante

Oliver Clifford Pedersen

Contenu

This seminar explores how individuals and collectives imagine the future. These imaginations guide and govern what people do in the present, sometimes leading to transformative social movements while, at other times, helping to preserve oppressive systems. The process of imagining is therefore never solitary nor devoid of tensions; often, conflicting imaginations of the future produce clashes between groups, highlighting how power operates on and through imagination. Throughout the semester, we will explore the generative potential and limitations of imagination, with an emphasis on who or what holds the power to define the future, and who is excluded or silenced in the process. We will discuss topics such as slow crises, ecological collapse, utopias, and the rise of the alt-right.

Drawing on an interdisciplinary set of theories on imagination, students are equipped to analyse questions related to the future and its connections to the social, economic, political, and material conditions in which they are embedded. Students are tasked with conducting a small research project, analysing a past or current case with a focus on imaginations of the future.

Seminar is taught in English.

Forme de l'évaluation

Presentation of proposed research project

- Present the selected case and your preliminary research objectives and design
- Present your ideas in a coherent and engaging manner
- Give feedback to fellow students
- This presentation and feedback are assessed on a pass/fail basis

Written evaluation (or equivalent)

- Write a 4000 ± 250 words research paper
- Groups of two to four students
- 1000 words are added for every additional student
- Present a coherent story
- Demonstrate command of and critical engagement with course material
- This research paper amounts to 100% of the final grade

Documentation

A detailed list of texts and sources will be made available on Moodle.

Pré-requis

All students with a background in social sciences and interested in exploring and discussing the role of the future in the present are welcome.

Forme de l'enseignement

You will be introduced to theoretical perspectives on the imagination from different disciplines, although the sociocultural psychological model

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serves as the bedrock of this course. We will discuss how to apply these theoretical perspectives to current cases – from emptying villages to ICE in the United States. We will be particularly concerned with questions about what the future should be, who or what gets to chart its course, who is excluded or invisibilised, and how people navigate and contest conflicting futures.

This course revolves around a small research project that students are expected to design and conduct. In the final weeks, you will present an outline of your project to receive peer feedback before writing the final research paper. Each week includes a session in which we discuss key texts, engage in interactive exercises, and the lecturer presents additional perspectives.

Students are expected to actively participate in seminar discussions and engage with the content of the readings and/or assignments detailed on Moodle.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

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

- Discuss and critically evaluate theories of the future
- Design and execute a small research project with imagination and the future at its core
- Analyse complex societal phenomena and identify the role of the future in the present
- Present ideas in a coherent and engaging fashion

Compétences transférables

- Carry out research project
- Simulate creative and critical thinking
- Apply theoretical perspectives to understand current societal issues
- Discuss ideas and theoretical concepts