The purpose of the SPS Seminar is to take stock of the debates within the international scientific community that have repercussions for the practice of contemporary sociology, and that renew the ways in which we construct research designs, i.e., the ways in which we connect theoretical claims, data collection and methods to assess the link between data and theory. Several observations motivate this endeavor. Increasing interactions between social sciences and disciplines such as computer science, physics and biology outline new conceptual and methodological perspectives on social realities. The availability of massive data sets raises the question of the tools required to describe, visualize and model these data sets. Simulation techniques, experimental methods and counterfactual analyses modify our conceptions of causality. Crossing sociology’s disciplinary frontiers, network analysis expands its range of scales. In addition, the development of mixed methods redraws the distinction between qualitative and quantitative approaches. In light of these challenges, the SPS seminar discusses studies that, irrespective of their subject and disciplinary background, provide the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the relations between theory, data and methods in social sciences.

20.10.2017 Delia Baldassarri (NYU) Cooperation in Complex Societies: How does Ethnic Diversity Affect Pro-social Behavior in Contemporary Communities?

17.11.2017 Martin Aranguren (CNRS–URMIS) Misrecognitive Discrimination: Clarification and Field Experimental Operationalization.


19.01.2018 Milena Tsvetkova (LSE) The Emergence of Inequality in Social Groups.

16.02.2018 Sarah Valdez (Linköping University) Patterns in Radical Right Party Emergence.

16.03.2018 Fabien Accominotti (LSE) Experimental Studies of the Acceptability of Inequality.

13.04.2018 Henning Hillmann (Mannheim) Quantitative Analysis of Qualitative Data: The Case of Historical Networks.

4.5.2018 Ivano Bison (Trento) Time, Events, and Sequences.

15.6.2018 Richard Breen (Oxford) Intergenerational Mobility and Demographic Change.

Ivan Ermakoff <ivan.ermakoff@ehess.fr>
Gianluca Manzo <gianluca.manzo@cnrs.fr>
Etienne Ollion <ollion@unistra.fr>
Ivaylo Petev <ivaylo.petev@ensae.fr>
Paola Tubaro <paola.tubaro@lri.fr>