



*As of September 21, 2018*

## **The Role of the Future in Economic and Political Sociology**

**Joint PhD Seminar of Sciences Po, Paris, and the MPIfG, Cologne**  
September 2018, Cologne

**Seminar 2: The Role of the Future in Economic and Political Sociology: Between Stabilizing Expectations and Extending Crises**  
**September 24–26, 2018 | MPIfG, Cologne**

This seminar explores the recent interest in the future in the social sciences. Recent work in economic sociology has brought out the importance of actors' expectations, showing the influence of narratives and fictions on future developments as ways of embedding economic activity in stories and images of envisioned future capitalist development. Other strands of literature in economic geography, anthropology, and history have pinpointed the origins and use of tools of future crafting, such as forecasts and scenarios, as instruments of market making and as contributors to the crafting of economic interests over time. The seminar aims to familiarize PhD students with this emerging research agenda.

### **Faculty**

Jens Beckert, MPIfG; Jenny Andersson, MaxPo/Sciences Po; Marcin Serafin, Max Planck Partner Group for the Sociology of Economic Life

### **Senior guest speaker**

Christina Garsten, Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University

## Schedule

### Monday, September 24

- 10:00-11:30    **Session 1: Introduction**  
Jenny Andersson, Jens Beckert, and Marcin Serafin
- 11:30-11:45    *Coffee Break*
- 11:45-13:15    **Session 2: Presentation of PhD projects**
- In New Warsaw: Mortgage credit and the unfolding of space and time**  
Mateusz Halawa
- “An Untampered Chain of Events? – How Blockchain Became the "Next Big Thing”**  
Moritz Hütten
- 13:15-14:15    *Lunch Break*
- 14:15-15:45    **Session 3: Anticipation, Knowledge and Governance: Fashioning Futures**  
Christina Garsten
- 19:00-22:00    **Dinner**  
Brewery “Zum Alten Brauhaus” Severinstraße 51, 50678 Cologne

### Tuesday, September 25

- 09:00-10:30    **Session 4: Imaginaries and Calculation in the Economy**  
Jens Beckert
- 10:30-11:00    *Coffee Break*
- 11:00-12:30    **Session 5: Presentation of PhD projects**
- Building Consent, Creating a Market: How Real Estate Developers Overcome Co-ordination Challenges in Slum Redevelopment in Mumbai**  
Anitra Baliga
- Struggles Over Land Acquisitions in the Global South. An Analysis of Peasant Organizations' Narratives in Mozambique**  
Laura Gerken

12:30-13:30 *Lunch Break*

13:00-15:00 **Session 6: What are Scenarios? Reflections on a Powered Tool**  
Jenny Andersson

### **Wednesday, September 26**

09:00-10:30 **Session 7: Telling Stories about the Future: Symbolic Power and the Problem of Credibility**  
Marcin Serafin

10:30-11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00-13:00 **Session 8: Presentation of PhD projects**

**Community Renewable Energy Projects and their Confrontation to the Electricity Market: Denmark, France, and United Kingdom in Comparison**  
Pierre Wokuri

**The Institutionalisation of Insurance**  
Promises to Pay. 19th Century Life Insurance and the Issue of Solvency  
Vera Linke

**Narrative Self-Reference and the Assessment of Knowledge**  
Maximilian Roßmann

13:00-14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:00-15:30 **Session 9: Concluding Discussion**

*For the purpose of documentation and marketing photos will be taken during this event. If you do not agree with this, please contact the organizer. Of course, no photos will be published without prior agreement from those appearing in them.*

## Readings

*The pdf and excerpts provided are for the participants of this seminar only. Texts may neither be forwarded nor distributed.*

### Session 1

Grégoire Mallard and Andrew Lakoff (2011) *How Claims to Know the Future Are Used to Understand the Present*, p.339-378 in: Charles Camic, Neil Gross, and Michèle Lamont (eds.): *Social Knowledge in the Making*

### Session 3

Jenny Andersson (2018 forthcoming). *Planning the future of world markets:the OECD's Interfutures project* in: Andersson, Jenny and Sandra Kemp (eds.): *The Future of the World. Futurology, Futurists, and the Struggle for the Cold War Imagination*, Oxford University Press

R. John Williams (2016) *World Futures*, in: *Critical Inquiry* 42, no. 3, p.473-546

### Session 4

Jens Beckert and Richard Bronk (2018) *An Introduction to Uncertain Futures*, p.1-36 in: Jens Beckert and Richard Bronk (eds.): *Uncertain Futures. Imaginaries, Narratives and Calculation in the Economy*

### Session 6

Christina Garsten and Adrienne Sörbom (2018 forthcoming). *Future by Design: Seductive Technologies of Anticipation within the Future Industry* in: Andersson, Jenny and Sandra Kemp (eds.): *The Future of the World. Futurology, Futurists, and the Struggle for the Cold War Imagination*, Oxford University Press

Ulf Hannerz. *Writing Futures: An Anthropologist's View of Global Scenarios*, *Current Anthropology*, Volume 56, Number 6, December 2015.

### Session 7

Pierre Bourdieu (1991) *The Social Institution of Symbolic Power*, In *Pierre Bourdieu, Language and Symbolic Power*, p.105-115

William Labov (2013) *Narrative Analysis. In the Language of Life and Death: The Transformation of Experience in Oral Narrative*, p.14-43

Stefan Leins (2018) *Stories of Capitalism: Inside the Role of Financial Analysts*, excerpt