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Max Planck Sciences Po Center on Coping with Instability in Market Societies

MaxPo

Strengthening Franco-German research

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Our offices are located at staircase F of the building on the first and third floor. The closest metro stops are “Saint Germain” on Line 4 and “Rue du Bac” on Line 12.
Financialization, Transformation of Labor Markets, and Fluctuating Inequality

Research group led by Olivier Godechot
Financialization is traditionally viewed, as a major factor of instability, with each successive financial crisis (1987, 1998, 2002, 2008) increasingly affecting the global economy, economic growth, and, ultimately, social cohesion. Moreover, new types of political innovations, such as Occupy Wall Street, have also denounced financiers' direct impact on overall inequality. An insightful way to understand the contours, causes, and consequences of financialization is to study the financial labor market. How do patterns of mobility in financial labor markets shape broader inequalities?

The Center

Co-directors of MaxPo 2015

MaxPo is led by two co-directors who serve as research group leaders supervising up to three doctoral students. Both co-directors are professors at Sciences Po.

- Jenny Andersson, economic historian
- Olivier Godechot, economic sociologist

Joint Council

The joint council advises the co-directors regarding research perspectives, recruitment, and activities.

- Jens Beckert, Professor of Sociology (Director at Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG), Cologne)
- Patrick de Gaulle, CNRS Research Professor (Centre d’Études et de Recherches Internationales, CERI)
- Sophie Dubuisson-Quellier, CNRS Research Director, Deputy Director of the Centre de sociologie des organisations (CSO)

Associate Fellows

MaxPo’s Associate Fellows are scholars whose work is tightly linked with the MaxPo research groups and who continue to develop its scientific activities in cooperation with the co-directors.

- Marion Fourcade, Professor of Sociology, University of California-Berkeley
- Co-director of MaxPo from 2012 to 2015
- Cornelia Woll, Professor of Political Science, University of California-Berkeley
- Associate Fellow (2016-2017)
- Jenny Andersson, economic historian
- Olivier Godechot, economic sociologist

Visitors’ program

 Hosting senior scholars and doctoral students

MaxPo has a well-established visitor’s program for both senior scholars and doctoral students. Visitors come to the Center for periods varying from one month to a semester and have the opportunity to present their research and participate in the activities of MaxPo and other research units at Sciences Po. Since its founding, MaxPo has hosted renowned international scholars from economic sociology and political economy such as Luc Boltanski (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris), Thomas Piketty (Paris School of Economics), Steven Shapin (Harvard University), and Wolfgang Streeck (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies). The annual MaxPo Lectures feature distinguished speakers and aim to showcase their work. They serve to extend the Center’s reach and encourage dialogue with other disciplines. They include talks by Ronald S. Burt (University of Chicago), Matt Desmond (Harvard University), and Isabela Mares and David Stark (Columbia University), among others. MaxPo has also initiated a joint conferences in Cologne and Paris on topics such as financialization, inequality, and economic sociology. The joint conferences aim to foster both joint research topics as economic sociology and political economy such as Bruce Carruthers (University of Toronto), Sophie Dubuisson-Quellier, and Claus Offe (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin). They serve to extend the Center’s reach and encourage dialogue with other disciplines. They include talks by Ronald S. Burt (University of Chicago), Matt Desmond (Harvard University), and Isabela Mares and David Stark (Columbia University), among others. MaxPo has also initiated a joint conferences in Cologne and Paris on topics such as financialization, inequality, and economic sociology. The joint conferences aim to foster both joint research topics as economic sociology and political economy such as Bruce Carruthers (University of Toronto), Sophie Dubuisson-Quellier, and Claus Offe (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin).
The Power of the Future. Conditions of Political Possibility for a Post-Crisis Era

Research group led by Jenny Andersson

The research group seeks to understand how contemporary societies manage social futures, and what consequences for the ability to envision change and to imagine alternative possibilities. It is constructed around two research problems. First, it seeks to examine the role played by forecasts and scenarios in contemporary market societies, their role in extending key forms of economic interests over time. And in contributing to displacing forms of social conflict from the present to the future. Second, by bringing in economic and political history, it seeks to explore the shifting preconditions of political action in the period since the 1970s. This research group redefines the space for possible socioeco-financialization, Transformation of Labor Markets, and Flourishing Inequality

Research group led by Olivier Godechot

Financialization is traditionally viewed, as a major factor of instability, with each successive financial crisis (1987, 1998, 2000, 2008) increasingly affecting the global economy, economic growth, and, ultimately, social cohesion. More recently, new types of political innovations, such as Occupy Wall Street, have also denounced finance’s direct impact on social inequality. An insightful way to understand the causes, and consequences of financialization is to study the financial labor market. How do patterns of mobility in financial labor markets shape broader inequalities?

Olivier Godechot, Patrick Le Galès, and Cornelia Woll

The Power of the Future. Conditions of Political Possibility for a Post-Crisis Era

Research Areas

Austrian Institute of Economic Research

Sciences Po in Paris.

MaxPo is led by two co-directors who continue to develop its scientific activities and whose work is tightly linked with the Center. Co-director of MaxPo from 2012 to 2015, Marion Fourcade and Cornelia Woll were the founding co-directors of the Center. They serve to extend the Center’s reach and encourage dialogue with other disciplines.

Marion Fourcade, Professor of Sociology, University of California-Berkeley. Co-director of MaxPo from 2012 to 2013.

Cornelia Woll, Professor of Political Science, University of California-Berkeley. Co-director of MaxPo from 2012 to 2015.

MaxPo has a well-established visitors’ program for both senior scholars and doctoral students. Visitors come to the Center for periods varying from one month to a semester and have the opportunity to present their work and participate in the activities of MaxPo and other research units at Sciences Po. Since its founding, MaxPo has hosted renowned international scholars from economic sociology and political economy such as Bruce Carruthers (Northwestern University, Evanston); Neil Fligstein, Heather A. Havemann, and Paul Pierson (all University of California-Berkeley); Joseph Boltrafi (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin); and, more recently, new types of political innovations, such as Occupy Wall Street, have also denounced finance’s direct impact on social inequality. An insightful way to understand the causes, and consequences of financialization is to study the financial labor market. How do patterns of mobility in financial labor markets shape broader inequalities?

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MaxPo organizes two seminars a month. One is a part of the SCIDORS lecture series, and the other, CSO, focuses on work in progress. Highlights of the seminars have included talks by Ronald S. Burt (University of Chicago), Matt Desmond (Harvard University), and Matías Dewey (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies). The annual MaxPo Lecture features distinguished speakers and aims to show how the future forms and effects on social policies and scientific developments.

MaxPo’s lecture series are exclusively open to invited guests and they are intended to foster ongoing research activities in the Center.

MaxPo organizes seminars on specific topics and encourages dialogue with other disciplines.

MaxPo invites senior scholars and doctoral students.

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MaxPo’s research groups and other research activities of MaxPo and other research units at Sciences Po along with its affiliated institutions such as the Centre d’études européennes, CERI organize joint conferences in Cologne and Paris on such mutual research topics as economic futures, prediction, and inequality. The joint conferences aim to foster both the exchange of ideas between the two partner institutions and the integration of Franco-German research traditions.

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The research group seeks to understand how contemporary societies manage social futures, and what consequences this has for the ability to envision change and to imagine alternatives. It is constructed around two research problems. First, it seeks to examine the role played by forecasts and scenarios in contemporary market societies, their role in extending key forms of economic interests over time, and in contributing to displacing forms of social conflict from the present to the future. Second, by bringing in economic scenarios, it aims to extend and imagine alternative possibilities. It is constructed around six main research areas:

- **Financialization, Transformation of Labor Markets, and Flattening Inequality**

Research group led by Olivier Godechot. Financialization is traditionally viewed, as a major factor of instability, with each successive financial crisis (1987, 2000, 2008) increasingly affecting the global economy, economic growth, and, ultimately, social coherence. More recently, new types of political movements, such as Occupy Wall Street, have also denounced finance’s direct impact on overall inequality. An insightful way to understand the contours, causes, and consequences of financialization is to study the financial labor market. How do patterns of employability in financial labor markets shape broader inequalities?

- **Conditions of Political Possibility**

Research group led by Jenny Andersson. The conditions of political possibility are shifting preconditions of political change and include studying new definitions of Left and Right politics, emergent forms of populism, and how austerity politics reinforces the spaces for possible socioecological alternatives.

- **Inequality**

Research group led by Isabela Mares and David Stark (Columbia University). Inequality is a key issue in contemporary capitalism. It is a major factor of instability, with each successive financial crisis (1987, 2000, 2008) increasingly affecting the global economy, economic growth, and, ultimately, social coherence. More recently, new types of political movements, such as Occupy Wall Street, have also denounced finance’s direct impact on overall inequality. An insightful way to understand the contours, causes, and consequences of financialization is to study the financial labor market. How do patterns of employability in financial labor markets shape broader inequalities?

- **Research Professor, Deputy Director of the International Max Planck Research School for the Social and Political Constitution of Capitalism**

Sophie Dubuisson-Quellier, Professor of Sociology, University of California-Berkeley. Professor of Political Science, University of California-Berkeley.

- **Jens Beckert,经济史家**

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The research group seeks to understand how contemporary societies manage social futures, and what consequences for the ability to envision change and imagine alternative possibilities. It is constructed around two research problems: First, it seeks to understand the contours, causes, and consequences of financialization in the study of the financial labor market. How do patterns of mobility in financial labor markets shape broader inequalities?

Second, by bringing in economic sociology and political economy, it seeks to explore the shifting definitions of political action in the period since the 1970s. This includes studying new definitions of Left and Right politics, emergent forms of populism, and how authority politics configure the space for possible socioeconomic alternatives.

Research Areas

Economic sociology and political economy

The Center

Co-directors: Olivier Godechot and Patrick Le Galès

MaxPo leads two co-directorships: research group leaders supervising up to three doctoral students. Each co-director is a professor at Sciences Po, frequently a economic sociologist or economic historian.

Jenny Andersson, economic historian

Patrick Le Galès, economic sociologist

Joint Council

The Founding Co-directors advise the co-directors regarding research perspectives, recruitment, and activities.

Jens Beckert, Professor of Sociology (Director at Max Planck Institute for the Study of Human History, Tübingen); Sophie Dubuis, CNRS Research Professor, Deputy Director of the Centre de sociologie des organisations (CSEO); Cornelia Woll, Professor of Political Science and Sociology (University of California, Berkeley).

MaxPo has hosted renowned international scholars as guest researchers for periods varying from one month to a semester and have the opportunity to present their work at MaxPo’s regular colloquia. A research stay at the MPIfG in Cologne is part of the program. Students receive grants to cover living expenses, travel funding to conduct their empirical research projects, and office space.

MaxPo organizes two seminars a month. One is a part of the SCIDORS lecture series, and the other, COSIP, focuses on research in progress. Highlights of the seminars have included talks by Ronald S. Burt (University of Chicago), Matt Desmond (Stanford University), and Mariana Mazzucato (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for the Study of Sociologies). The annual MaxPo Lecture features distinguished speakers and aims to showcase their work. They serve to extend the Center’s reach and encourage dialogue with other disciplines.

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