



NOVEMBER 17-18, 2016. PARIS

Call for papers

When fieldwork challenges categories of analysis

The purpose of this conference is to question how young researchers in social sciences use, produce and adapt to categories of analysis when conducting their fieldwork in different parts of the world.

The notions of “South” and “cultural areas” made interdisciplinary dialogue possible, and helped researchers make major progress in scientific theorization. Moreover, these notions played a key role in the division of academic institutions and in the mobility of researchers. Yet, these terms, as any category, are related to specific historical and epistemological perspectives. For example, even though the notions of “North” and “South” refer to cardinal points, they have replaced former dichotomies such as “West/East”, “Western World/Third World”, “colonizers/colonized”, “developed countries/developing countries”. Therefore, they can induce ethnocentrism. Similar questions may arise from studies undertaken through the scope of “cultural areas” (*Asian studies*, *Latin American studies*, etc.). By linking territories and cultures, the notion of “cultural area” tends indeed to limit the analysis of circulations and social hybridizations in a globalized world.

Do these divisions in academic landscape still correspond to contemporary realities, which young researchers encounter during fieldwork? Are these divisions still relevant in a globalized academic world where many young researchers coming from the “Global South” are now part of North-American and European institutions (including F3S’s scientific laboratories)? Are they still “operative” when researchers study similar social phenomena in the “Global North” and in the “Global South” with new concepts that enrich social sciences all around the world? Finally, is it possible to avoid these categories to study mankind as a whole and in its plurality?

As an ongoing process of challenging standard knowledge, scientific analysis constructs, deconstructs and reconstructs new categories [1]. It also reveals linguistic issues and their social values [2, 3]. Scientific and academic traditions, as well as practical difficulties during fieldwork, often lead young

researchers to “tinker” with categories [4]. Besides, the increasing number of scientists from the “Global South” has had a gradual impact on renewing research issues: their points of view on the same fieldworks help rethink analytical categories which have been produced in the “Global North”.

Young researchers who would like to participate in this conference are invited to consider their research practices and methods of investigation, to explain how they adapt to existing categories of analysis and make them theirs, how they interpret and get inspired by research theories (by using interdisciplinarity, comparatism, “studies” - *global studies, urban studies...* - or concepts such as *intersectionality, transnationalism, circulations, ...*) and even how they suggest new categories.

1. How has the use of specific categories had an impact on the design of your research project?
2. To which extent have categories of analysis influenced the preparation of your fieldwork and the choice of your investigation tools and methods?
3. How have these categories been questioned by your fieldwork?
4. To which extent might datas be twisted to fit some categories of analysis and theorization?

Any topic is welcome. Nonetheless, we will be especially interested in papers which precisely describe processes of deconstruction and which highlight practical, scientific, professional, political, semantic and personal difficulties when young researchers question the limits of academic theories through fieldwork.

[1] Florence Delmotte et Denis Duez (dir.), *Les frontières et la communauté politique. Faire, défaire et penser les frontières*, Bruxelles, Presses de l'Université Saint-Louis, 2016, 252 pages.

[2] Ludwig von Bertalanffy, *Théorie générale des systèmes*, Chap. 10 - La relativité des catégories, Paris, Ed. Dunod, 1973 (1968), pp. 227-254.

[3] Louis Quéré, *La valeur opératoire des catégories*, Cahiers de l'URMIS, n°1, 1995.

[4] Roger Bastide, “Mémoire collective et sociologie du bricolage”, *L'Année sociologique*, vol. 21, 1970, pp. 65-108.

Practical information

This conference, conceived and prepared by Ph.D. students of the F3S, is thought to be an opportunity for young researchers (PhD candidates, junior researchers, post-doctoral fellows) from any academic discipline to exchange and share experiences. A cocktail will be held at the end of the conference.

Authors should provide a short abstract of their paper (500 words max. - excluding bibliography) to codofe2016@gmail.com, indicating the topic, field of research, methods of investigation and theoretical framework. Once selected, authors should provide a final paper (between 4000 and 8000 words).

Important dates:

- 07/15/2016: Submission deadline for abstracts (500 words)
- 09/15/2016: Authors receive notification of their paper acceptance
- 10/30/2016: Deadline for sending papers (4000 to 8000 words)
- 10/17-18/2016: Conference

Abstracts and papers should include:

- Your first and last name
- Your university status (Ph.D. candidates, junior researchers, post-doctoral fellows)
- Your research center and/or university
- The title of your paper

Fédération Sciences Sociales Suds (F3S)

Created in the frame of PRES Sorbonne Paris Cité, the Fédération Sciences Sociales Suds (F3S) gathers four interdisciplinary laboratories dedicated to studies on specific issues related to the “Global South”: CEPED (Centre Population et Développement, Université Paris Descartes - IRD), CESSMA (Centre d’Etudes en Sciences Sociales sur les mondes Africains, Américains et Asiatiques, Université Paris Diderot - INALCO - IRD), CREDA (Centre de Recherche et de Documentation des Amériques, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle) and URMIS (Unité de Recherches Migrations et Société, Université Paris Diderot – Université Sophia Antipolis - CNRS - IRD).

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