

MA 'Studies in European Societies'



MA RESEARCH ACTIVITIES/RESEARCH PROJECT



Choosing your research topic: possible factors

- Personal interests/curiosity (emerging from everyday life experience, hobbies, membership in cultural groups and settings)
- Practical interests and applied problems + timeliness and applicability
- Ethical principles and ideals of the researcher
- Theoretical preferences
- Access to the field
- Time constraints and financial constraints
- Personal security and reputation

See e.g. In the Beginning: Starting a Field Research Project, in: Bailey, Carol A. A Guide to Field Research. London, 2001. Pp. 25-49.

Things to remember for MA SES students when choosing the research topic

- Focus on Europe
- Comparative perspective desirable
- Compatibility of theoretical frame and empirical research question
- Elements of scientific novelty are expected in MA thesis
- The project should be 'doable' within 2 years of study
- Both the focus of the research and the major research questions can change in the course of research process

Research design

- Research problem
- Key research question -> goal
- Specific research questions -> tasks
- Subject of inquiry (“research object”) -> samples, cases + necessary grounding
- Hypotheses (if needed)
- Methods + grounding
- Additionally: topicality, the level of the topic scientific development
- Theoretical frame(s) + grounding

Elena Shershneva

Dr., associate professor



- European labor markets
- employment policies and unemployment problems
- education and inequality
- international human resources management
- Economic crises, new risks and welfare state reforms in Europe
- Social movements in European countries

Elena Belokurova

Dr., associate professor



- European politics: integration and disintegration
- European Union governance
- Constitutionalization in Europe
- Non-governmental organizations

Dmitry Ivanov

Dr., Prof.



- sociological theory
- globalization
- virtualization of societies
- glam-capitalism

Vladimir Ilyin

Dr., Prof.



- social differentiation, inequality and exclusion
- labor relations
- consumption
- everyday life
- qualitative social research

Svetlana Yaroshenko

Dr., associate professor



- poverty
- social exclusion and new forms of solidarity
- post-Socialist contexts
- gender differentiation and inequalities
- case-study

Anisya Khokhlova

Dr., head of Council of Young Scholars. MA SES director



- everyday life
- cultural studies
(especially public
and
community-based
art, creative
communities and
spaces)
- urban studies
- memory studies

Madeleine Block

Dr., DAAD lecturer



- knowledge management
- human resources management
- Sociology of organizations and organizational management
- Quantitative methods of social research

Andrey Rezaev

Dr., Prof.



- contemporary capitalist societies
- education
- transnational migration
- comparative sociology
- neo-institutionalism in social sciences

Research activities evaluation

- Evaluation is done every semester by MA SES director with the involvement of scientific supervisors
- Points system:
 - ❖ 1st semester ≥ 15 points
 - ❖ 2nd semester ≥ 18 points
 - ❖ 3rd semester ≥ 20 points
 - ❖ 4th semester ≥ 25 points
- Special support from CGES for students who obtained the highest number of points
- Extra points earned for general activities can be transferred to the next semester

Reporting: thesis-related research progress

- Development of research design
- Improvement of research design
- Bibliography
- Theoretical chapter(s)
- Empirical chapter(s)
- Development of research tools (e.g. questionnaire, interview guide, discourse-analysis guidelines)
- Empirical data collection & analysis
- Full paper presentation and predefense

Reporting: broader research progress

- workshops /seminars
- winter and summer schools / advanced courses
- conferences
- academic and applied research projects
- internships
- exchange semesters
- publications (abstracts, collections of papers, collective monographs, peer-reviewed journals)