

INTERDISCIPLINARY CROSS-NATIONAL STUDIES, ICNS

GSSR Specialization

In accordance with the report of the Committee on Education at the Scientific Council of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology (Polish Academy of Sciences), submitted on January 9, 2009, the Graduate School for Social Research introduces a new specialization for selected doctoral students, *Interdisciplinary Cross-National Studies*, ICNS. This specialization has been prepared in cooperation with the *Cross-National Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program* - CONSIRT, established by the Departments of Sociology and Political Science, The Ohio State University (DS OSU and DPS OSU, respectively) and the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, and the Graduate School of Social Research at the Polish Academy of Sciences (IFiS PAN and GSSR PAN, respectively). The aim of ICNS is to provide doctoral students with rigorous training in quantitative and qualitative cross-national studies and prepare them for new job opportunities on the academic and non-academic international labor market. As part of its four year program, ICNS exposes students to thorough training and first-hand research in social issues in cross-national perspective. Successful completion of the specialization leads to certification by IFiS – CONSIRT. Doctoral students within ICNS are expected to participate in the CONSIRT activities, including cross-national collaboration.

Basic regulations for ICNS

1. The admission of doctoral students to ICNS will occur at the beginning of students' first academic year of study at GSSR. However, at the inception of ICNS, doctoral students in their first two years of study can apply for this specialization.
2. ICNS specialization is limited to 6-10 new doctoral students per academic year.
3. All courses of ICNS are taught in English.
4. Doctoral students accepted to ICNS need to take the INCS required courses within their first two academic years at GSSR. The following two years are devoted to active participation in the seminar *Interdisciplinary Cross-National Studies*, and in research projects conducted by CONSIRT, and/or approved by CONSIRT.
5. After completion of the four-year ICNS specialization, doctoral students will receive an IFiS – CONSIRT issued certificate.
6. All other administrative issues of ICNS are regulated by the statute of GSSR, or will be solved by the Director of GSSR, in consultation with the Director of CONSIRT.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CROSS-NATIONAL STUDIES: REQUIRED COURSES

Courses to be taken during students' first two academic years at GSSR

(a) Two-semester pro-seminar COMPARATIVE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN GLOBALIZING WORLD – 15 hours per semester (30 hours total).

To be taken during 1st academic year.

(b) Two-semester RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND METHODS OF SOCIAL INQUIRY – 30 hours per semester (60 hour total).

To be taken during 1st academic year.

(c) One semester BASIC STATISTICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (lecture and computer laboratory) – 30 hours per semester.

To be taken during 1st academic year.

(d) One semester COMPARATIVE METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – 30 hours per semester.

To be taken during 1st or 2nd academic year.

(e) One semester THEORY OF SOCIETAL DIFFERENTIATION AND CHANGE – 30 hours.

To be taken during 1st or 2nd academic year.

(f) One semester ADVANCED STATISTICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (lecture and computer laboratory) – 45 hours per semester.

To be taken during 2nd academic year.

(g) One semester ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – 30 hours per semester.

To be taken during 2nd academic year.

(h) One semester SUBSTANTIVE COURSE IN COMPARATIVE APPROACHES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – 30 hours per semester.

To be taken during 1st or 2nd academic year.

(i) To fulfill the GSSR requirements regarding mandatory number of course-hours, students will chose appropriate elective courses offered by GSSR.

Courses to be taken during students' third and fourth academic year at GSSR

(j) Seminar INTERDISCIPLINARY CROSS-NATIONAL STUDIES – 30 hours per year. To be taken during 3rd and 4th academic year.

(k) Participation in projects conducted by CONSIRT and/or approved by CONSIRT.

ICNS SCHEDULE FOR 2009/2010

First and Second Semester

Two-semester pro-seminar **COMPARATIVE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN GLOBALIZING WORLD** – 15 hours per semester.

Kazimierz M. Słomczyński, Joshua Dubrow, and Irina Tomescu-Dubrow

Disciplines and sub-disciplines of social sciences. Area study centers. Journals and books in social sciences. The Social Science Citation Index. Writing papers for the major journals in sociology, political science, and other disciplines of social sciences. Internet sources for conducting research in social sciences. Professionalization of the interdisciplinary cross-national studies. Ethics in conducting research in social sciences.

First Semester - Schedule

Dates	Topic	Assignments
October 15	Introduction	None
November 19	Disciplines and sub-disciplines of social sciences. Area study centers.	Classification of sub-disciplines of ISA, IPSA, and other international associations in the social sciences
December 10	Journals and books in social sciences. The Social Science Citation Index.	Review of the major journals in sociology, political science, and other disciplines of social sciences
January 7	Writing papers for the major journals in sociology, political science, and other disciplines of social sciences	Review of selected articles from major journals in sociology, political science, and other disciplines of social sciences

Schedule for the Second Semester will be provided at the end of the first semester.

First and Second Semester

Two-semester RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND METHODS OF SOCIAL INQUIRY

Irina Tomescu-Dubrow

This course focuses on the logic of social science research and on practical problems of applying quantitative and qualitative methods in the process of testing hypotheses, including interpretation of data. The first semester covers the structure of research and theory construction, types of research questions, hypothesis formulation, as well as the main issues of data gathering and data quality. The second semester provides an overview of the main methodological problems of quantitative and qualitative analysis, and illustrates the usage of different approaches in recent empirical social research. The entire course is conducted from an interdisciplinary perspective.

First Semester - Schedule

Dates	Topic	Readings
October 5	Introduction	None
October 12	Nature of Science. The <i>Science</i> in Social Sciences, Part I	S-S, Chapter 1 & 2
October 19	Nature of Science. The <i>Science</i> in Social Sciences, Part II	K-K-V, Chapter I
November 9	Reasoning in Social Sciences	S-S, Chapter 3
November 16	Descriptive Inference	K-K-V, Chapter 2
November 23	Research Design	S-S, Chapter 4
November 30	Definitions, Concepts, and Measurement	S-S, Chapter 5
December 7	Representation of the Units of Analysis. Sampling	S-S, Chapter 6
December 14	Conference	None (Assignment 1 due)
January 4	Experimental Design	S-S, Chapters 7 & 8
January 11	Survey Research	S-S, Chapters 9 & 10
January 18	Field Research	S-S, Chapter 11
January 25	Research Using Available Data	S-S, Chapter 12

Schedule for the Second Semester will be provided at the end of the first semester.

First Semester

One semester BASIC STATISTICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (lecture and computer laboratory) – 45 hours per semester

Henryk Banaszak

The Nature of Quantitative Social Research. Statistical Inference: Testing Differences Between Means. Comparing Groups: Analysis of Variance. Comparisons of Two Groups. Correlation and Linear Regression. Factor Analysis and Scaling Procedures. Introduction to Multivariate Relationships. Analyzing Association Between Categorical Variables.

Second Semester

One semester COMPARATIVE METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – 30 hours per semester

Kazimierz M. Słomczyński

The main objective of the course is to demonstrate that cross-national research provides an especially useful base for generating, testing, and further developing sociological theories. Many discussions of cross-national research contrast two strategies, one that seeks statistical regularities, another that explores a complexity of particular cases. Using this distinction, exemplary cross-national studies will be evaluated by examining their goals and hypotheses, the functional equivalence of indicators, the choice of units of observations, applied comparison procedures, the logic of data analysis, and the interpretation of results. Cross-national similarities and differences are to be discussed in the context of theory construction.

Topics: Comparative Methods in Social Sciences – General Issues. Cross-National Research as an Analytic Strategy. Cross-National Surveys: History and Current Developments. Comparability and Credibility in Survey Research. Functional Equivalence in Survey Research. General Issues and Examples of Analyses. Nation as a Unit of Analysis. Cultural Pluralism. Cross-National Structural Explanations. Comparative Studies and a Changing World System. Historical Analyses. Comparative Studies and Micro-Macro Linkages. Comparative Studies and Social Theory

Schedule for this course will be provided at the end of the first semester.

First or Second Semester

SUBSTANTIVE COURSE IN COMPARATIVE APPROACHES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES: COMPARATIVE APPROACHES TO POLITICS

30 hours per semester