

The 2017 EHESS Summer School
The Unity of the Social Sciences?
Rethinking the Concept of Revolution
3-14 July 2017

The study of the “longue durée” and the study of “Revolutions” have long been two of the holy grails of the social sciences: how structures perpetuate themselves and how they shift or collapse are, arguably, two central questions of the social sciences. The EHESS is famous for having produced path-breaking works on both topics (thanks to Fernand Braudel or François Furet, to mention only two of the most obvious examples). However, in light of recent world events (from the Arab Spring to the Internet Revolution), and because 2017 is the one-hundredth anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, the EHESS would like to devote its Summer School to the study of Revolutions. How do we study Revolutions and what are their social and anthropological ramifications? These are the two broad set of questions that we will ask during two intensive weeks of discussion.

There are at least two kinds of revolutions: the “effervescent” ones which seem to “irrupt” on the scene of history, unplanned and unforeseen, (e.g., Berlin wall; Arab Spring). But they can be also the end point of long-term, invisible processes which coalesce around phenomena that become visible or around “moments” in which structures change (as with Raymond Williams’ “long revolution” in culture). In both cases – effervescent or invisible – revolutions are expressions of social change: we speak of the Industrial Revolution to refer to a new mode of economic production and circulation that was slowly put into place throughout a still debated long or short period but came into full view in the 19th century. We speak of the French Revolution to refer to the overhaul of the feudal system and the establishment of a new political order, both of which seemed to happen overnight, but which in fact took a large part of the 18th and 19th centuries to gel. We speak of the Sexual Revolution to denote the rejection of religious morality in matters of sex and gender roles and its replacement with a new ethics of pleasure and the politics of gender. It has also become common after Thomas Kuhn to speak about “scientific revolutions,” and Bourdieu forged the concept of “symbolic revolutions” to designate the subversion of artistic norms and models.

Revolutions thus help formulate questions about the nature of social change: what constitutes a qualitative social change? What causes economic and social structures to crumble, entire populations to imagine and demand new modes of governance? How do artistic movements and scientific paradigms establish new ways of seeing and thinking?

Revolutions interrogate our perception of historical time and our understanding of models of historical causality. They also interrogate the role of individuals vis-a-vis social

structures. Lastly, the role of collective memory in the construction of our representation of revolutions as such also has to be taken into account.

These questions and many others will be at the intellectual core of the **EHESS Summer School “the Unity of the Social Sciences?”** “Revolutions” requires the expertise of the entire gamut of the Social Sciences and is an interdisciplinary concept *par excellence*. A panoply of leading researchers will address from within their specific areas of specialty a variety of theoretical and empirical questions such as: What constitutes a social rupture that turns into a revolution? Are all social ruptures revolutionary? How do the different disciplines of the social sciences define and study the revolutionary? Is there agreement across the social sciences as to what constitutes a Revolution? Do ideas merely accompany revolutions or do they provoke them? Are elites or the “people” responsible for revolutions or an alliance of both? How do we distinguish between mere crisis and long-term revolutions?

These questions are frequently examined in a number of different disciplines: history, sociology, political science, economics, legal studies, and anthropology. The four seminars that will structure the workshop will offer interdisciplinary approaches to four empirical themes: political revolutions (Hamit Bozarslan); sexual revolutions (Eva Illouz); economic revolutions (Sébastien Lechevalier); and symbolic revolutions (Gisèle Sapiro).

Political Revolution

Seminar leader: Hamit Bozarslan

Invited speakers: Alain Blum, Ivan Ermakoff, Sophie Wahnich.

Economic Revolution

Seminar leader: Sébastien Lechevalier

Invited speakers: Nicolas Barreyre, Francis Chateauraynaud, Pierre-Cyrille Hautcoeur.

Sexual Revolution

Seminar leader: Eva Illouz and Elizabeth Armstrong

Invited speakers: Rainer Kiesow, Juliette Rennes, Georges Vigarello

Symbolic Revolution

Seminar leader: Gisèle Sapiro

Invited speakers: Kapil Raj, Frédérique Matonti, Esteban Buch

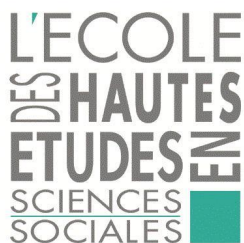
Keynote lecture: Roger Chartier (Collège de France), July 3

Plenary Panel: The Concept of Revolution with seminar leaders.

Academic directors: Eva Illouz and Gisèle Sapiro

Administrative director: Valérie Beaudoin

*The summer school is organized in partnership with the **Excellence Laboratory “Tepsis”** (Transformation de l’Etat, Politisation des sociétés, Institut du social).*



EHESS Summerschool 2017 :
Rethinking the Concept of Revolution
APPLICATION

The summer school is open to masters and doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows and early career faculty members. Students to the Summer School will be selected on the basis of their letter of motivation, recommendation letters, CV, and research interests.

Registration fees, lunches, 2 cocktails:	500 €
Accommodation at the Cité universitaire:	<u>760 €</u>
Total fees:	1260 €

It is possible to pay only the registration fees and lunches at Alliance française, without staying at the Cité universitaire for those having other accommodations in Paris.

NB: Students have to cover their own travel expenses. However, thanks to the Tepsis Laboratory there will be three or four travel scholarships available for students accepted into the summer school who have no other travel funds. This will entail a separate application process.

All foreign students who are accepted into the summer school must take care of obtaining their own visa or migration documents, as required. The EHESS will provide an invitation letter.

The summer school is open to 4 EHESS students tuition-free, based on the same application and selection process. The EHESS students will be asked to help students from abroad as needed.

Application Materials

- Motivation letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Summary of the Research project (max.1 page)
- Research project (5 pages)
- Letter of recommendation from your advisor or another accredited teacher
- Good command of English is mandatory
- Document proving status [e.g., as graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, or university position]
- Document proving valid health insurance covering the stay in Paris. (This will need to be provided after the selection process.)

Deadline for application: January 8, 2016
To be sent to: summerschool17@ehess.fr