
Research

Current research projects at ISS

Principal Investigator	Title	Duration
Paul Blokker	Jean Monnet Chair in European Political Sociology	2016-2018
Barbora Spalová	Moral economies of contemporary monasteries in Czech Republic and in Austria (Aktion CR & Austria)	2016-2017
Ondřej Císař	Activism in hard times and the image of the “Other”	2016-2018
Karel Čada	The dynamics of poverty and social exclusion in the Czech Republic (2006-2015)	2016-2018
Martin Nekola	Does policy design matter? A comparative study of target populations in the Czech Republic	2016-2018
Simon Smith	Narrative construction of crisis and institutions in party politics and public policies	2016-2018
Martin Hájek	Frugality and economy in times of crisis: economic behaviour in family and public discourses in present Czech society	2015-2017
Michaela Pixová	The dispute over the Czech city: Civic participation in the restructuring of post-socialist cities	2014-2016
Marie Dlouhá	Business, family and life partners: Construction of work-family interface in copreneurial couples in the Czech and Slovak republics	2014-2016
Jiří Bureš	Autopoietic system and actor-network as a method of analysis and visualization of citation relationships	2015-2016
Petra Chalupová	Cashless society and its influence on the development of human potential	2015-2016
Daniel Prokop	Dynamika chudoby a sociálního vyloučení v České republice (2006-2014)	2015-2016

Annotations

Activism in hard times and the image of the “Other”

Ondřej Císař (ondrej.cisar@fsv.cuni.cz), Jiří Navrátil, Marek Čejka, Milan Hrubeš

European societies are currently facing multiple challenges, such as the recent economic recession, the rise in political populism, and xenophobic mobilization against diverse representatives of the supposed European “other”. Typically, the Roma minority or Islam – allegedly foreign to our European identity – represent the other. In this project, we focus on how these challenges and images of them translate into the ways people, including young people (who are believed to be impacted by them more than older generations are), engage in politics in the Czech Republic. In a nutshell, we study how politically active people are reacting to the current economic conditions and cultural challenges (conceptualized here as the prior existence of ethnic conflict). We focus on whether and how different contexts produce different configurations of activism. Hence, the main research question is: do current economic problems and the history of ethnic conflicts result in different activist responses?

Business, family and life partners: Construction of work-family interface in copreneurial couples in the Czech and Slovak republic

Marie Dlouhá (majka.dlouha@gmail.com)

Copreneurs are the most basic unit of family-owned businesses, and such firms comprise a significant component of the small business sector in nations' economies around the world. Yet, the role of women and the gender relations in these businesses are severely under-researched. This project will focus on the gender dynamic in the business and family lives of these couples, concretely I will focus on how work-life interface is constructed within copreneur couples. Following contemporary research on entrepreneurship and gender relations, I will consider both gender and entrepreneurship as emergent, socially constructed activities that are interconnected and embedded in a broader social context. In my case it will be context of Czech and Slovak republic. My research will focus on the ways in which Czech and Slovak copreneur couples construct or "do" gender, entrepreneurship, and family in their daily lives. My data analysis will examine how domestic and professional roles are constructed in interview narratives. I will extend data from semi-structured, in-depth interviews from the Czech republic by similar data from the Slovak republic. Important part of project is presentation of results both in scholarly journal and on academic conferences.

Does policy design matter? A comparative study of target populations in the Czech Republic

Martin Nekola (martin.nekola@fsv.cuni.cz), O. Angelovská, K. Dobiášová, E. Hejzlarová, M. Jelínková, J. Kohoutek, M. Kotrusová, M. Mouralová, V. Novotný, A. Veselý

The main goal of the project is to improve our understanding of the ways public policies are designed for different target populations (such as seniors, single mothers, university professors and others) and how these policies further influence subsequent political processes in the Czech Republic. Taking into account the inherent complexity of policy-making, we aim to describe and explain different mechanisms of policy design, i.e. to elaborate on the single or (more likely) multiple paths by which public policies emerge, endure and/or change. In particular, we will further develop, both theoretically and empirically, the relationship between policy design components (rules, tools etc.) and target populations and integrate policy design more fully with other theories of public policy, especially policy learning theories. The project is empirical in its nature and utilizes a mixed method multiple-case study research strategy. The main methods are process tracing and qualitative comparative analysis (QCA).

Frugality and Economy in Times of Crisis: Economic behaviour in family and public discourses in present Czech society

Martin Hájek (martin.hajek@fsv.cuni.cz), Petr Kaderka, Jiří Nekvapil, Tomáš Samec

The project addresses the recent situation of the widely perceived and discursively publicised economic instability. It focuses on the discursive construction and ongoing re-specification of economic (i.e. frugal, thrifty) behaviour. A distinction of frugality (as a personal virtue) and economy (as a rational efficiency of administration) will be used as a heuristic instrument to describe and understand the argumentative incoherence of public discourse on the nature, causes and consequences of the economic instability (crisis). The main data corpus will be formed by a diversified sample of Czech public and family discourses (media debates and family conversations). The aims of the project are: a) to classify the manifest and hidden moralities linked to the use of the everyday categories of economic behaviour, b) to answer the question whether the family discourse on economic virtues draws more on public discourse or the family habitus and c) to describe processes of sensemaking, mediated by public and family discourses, in the situation of coping with the economic crisis.