

EPISTEMOLOGY OF MANAGEMENT

LLSMA 2001

Place: LLN (*to be defined*)

PRESENTATION

A course in *Epistemology of research on management* should allow the students to access to a critical theory of knowledge applied to management and, in a wider sense, to all disciplines that belong to management studies.

Such a goal is at the same time theoretical and practical: firstly, it should help the students in understanding how a "management science" has been progressively invented, what are the challenges and limitations of such a project; secondly, it will introduce the participants to the main debates in the epistemological field, mixing fundamental and applied epistemologies; thirdly, it will give them reflexive roots to fulfill their PhD. thesis in management studies.

After an introductory session dedicated to the foundations of epistemology, the course will explore the main branches in fundamental epistemology: 1. Positivism and Neo-positivism; 2. Systems and Structures; 3. Interpretativism and Social Critics; 4. Contemporary Epistemologies (not done this year). Then, it will be dedicated to the presentations of current works in epistemology applied to management. Getting inspiration from the *Critical Management Studies* (CMS) movement, it will finally conclude on the notion of "critics" applied to management.

PROGRAMME & CALENDAR

During the year 2015-2016, the **calendar** is the following:

> **Thursday, Feb.18th 2016 – 15.00 to 18.00 – Fundamental Epistemology (MORE 74)**

Introduction

> **Monday, Feb. 29th 2016 – 10.00 to 13.00 – Fundamental Epistemology (U. VAES - A052)**

Session 1 – Empiricism, idealism: foundations of modern epistemology

> **Monday, March 14th 2016 – 9.00 to 12.00 – Fundamental Epistemology (U. VAES - A052)**

Session 2 - Around Popper: Positivism & Neo-positivism - Group presentations

Session 3 - Systems (Luhmann) and Structures (Bourdieu) - Group presentations

> **Thursday, April 14th 2016 – 14.30 to 17.30 – Applied Epistemology (MORE 74)**

Session 5 - Interpretivism and Social Critics (Foucault, Berger & Luckmann, Garfinkel, Ricoeur, Habermas) - Group presentations

Session 6 - Contemporary Epistemologies (Simon, Giddens, Sen, Latour, Thévenot) - Group presentations

> **Thursday, April 21st 2016 – 13.00 to 16.00 – Applied Epistemology (MORE 74)**

Texts to be defined by students

> ***One or two other sessions will be organised. To be discussed.***

STUDENTS' WORKS

All following works will be achieved by **groups** (*number to be defined*). The precise requirements are as follows:

1. Oral presentation in Fundamental Epistemology. It will include:

- A detailed presentation of the text;
- An analysis of its contribution to the epistemological branch it belongs to;

- An analysis of its possible contribution to the epistemology of management.

2. Oral presentation in Applied Epistemology. It will include:

- A detailed presentation of the text;
- An analysis of its contribution to a specific field in management;
- A critical evaluation of the text, with respect to what have been presented and discussed during the course.

Your power-points will be put on the i-campus site. Don't forget to send them to us!

3. Final written document. It will include:

- A summary of one text in Fundamental Epistemology and of one text in Applied Epistemology (possibly – but not necessarily – those presented orally);
- A critical evaluation of the texts, as well as of their contributions;
- **Each member of the group then presents its research project and the possible contributions of such texts to his/her epistemological reflection.** Such reflexion should also include **elements coming from the compulsory books.** It will conclude on **the notion of "critics"** and its impacts on his/her reflection.

The written document will comprise between 25 and 30 pages (Garamond 12, interligne 1.5). It will be sent by e-mail and surface mail to: M. de NANTEUIL & T. AMOUGOU, UCL, CriDIS, Bte. L2. 01. 06. Place des Doyens, 1 - 1348 LLN - thierry.amougou@uclouvain.be on (*to be defined*), with a copy to Mrs. Rachel FELLER.

LANGUAGE

The course will be held in English & French. All written documents (powerpoints as final reports) are in English. Oral presentations are usually held in French, but additional oral sessions in English can be organised if necessary.

REFERENCE BOOKS

In addition to the syllabus (Parts I & II, both compulsories), compulsory books are:

Understanding Management Research, by Phil Johnson and Joanne Duberley (London: Sage, 2000);

Perspectives critiques en management. Pour une gestion citoyenne, by Laurent Taskin & Matthieu de Nanteuil (eds) (Bruxelles: De Boeck, 2001).

Other possible book is:

A History of Western Philosophy, by B. Russel;

TEACHERS'DETAILS

Prof. Matthieu de Nanteuil & Thierry Amougou

Reception. On appointment.

Centre de recherches interdies.
Démocratie, Institutions, Subjectivité (CriDIS-IACCHOS)

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tous les matins