



Module Title: Comparative Sociology 2

Module Code: SOU33144

Module Name: **Comparative Sociology 2**

- **ECTS Weighting:5**
- **Semester/Term Taught: Hilary Term**
- **Contact Hours: Weekly 1 hr lecture, 1 hr tutorial**
- **Module Personnel: TBC**
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Module Learning Aims and Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Discuss theoretical approaches to cross-national comparative sociology;
- Describe the diversities and similarities of contemporary European society in their social and demographic structures and dynamics;
- Use comparative methodologies to compare countries and regions with regard real world sociological phenomena

Module Content:

Comparative Sociology of Europe 2 introduces students to the intellectual world of comparative sociology and cross-national research. Cross-national comparative research is a fundamental building block of sociological research. Comparative sociology aims to advance sociological knowledge by either describing and exploring social phenomena across various countries and societies, establishing the degree of generalisability of findings, considering the significance and effects of specific national contexts and institutions for social outcomes. A long tradition of comparative research has furthered our understanding in numerous fields such as social revolutions, social policy and welfare programmes, occupational and social stratification, inter and intra generational social mobility, education and schooling, poverty, health inequalities and gender relations.

The module examines how values, social relations and institutions have changed in European societies. Are there similar trends in all or at least most European societies? Have European societies converged, i.e. become more similar over time, or are there persisting divergences and cleavages? The module aims to identify the forces that drive changes in values, social relations and institutions in European societies and the structures that shape particular regional and country-specific responses. It deals with a variety of topics such as religion, gender relations and friendship patterns. While the module does compare a few countries at one point in time, it tends to look at many European countries (and occasionally countries beyond Europe) for longer periods to identify common patterns and the main differences between them.

Recommended Reading List:

Breen, R. (Ed). 2004. *Social Mobility in Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Esping-Andersen, G. 1999. *Social Foundations of Post-industrial Economies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Immerfall, S. ad Therborn, G. 201. *Handbook of European Societies: Social Transformations in the 21st century*. New York: Springer

Mau, S. and Verwiebe, R. 2010. *European Societies: Mapping Structure and Change*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Module Pre-Requisite:

Module Co-Requisite:

Assessment Details: Students are required to attend lectures and tutorials and submit a take home assignment (worth 80% of final grade). Student presentation (worth 20% of final grade).

Module Website: