

Making European Society | MAKErS

The **Interdisciplinary thematic institutes** of the
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ITI MAKErS Summer School - Call for proposals

September 1-3, 2021

Strasbourg, France

The production and uses of “technical” knowledge in the regulation of health policy: Mastering complex knowledge in European and comparative studies

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<https://www.misha.fr/iti/makers>

The inaugural edition of the ITI Makers Summer school will bring together senior scholars, postdoctoral students, and Ph.D candidates for an intensive four-day exchange in Strasbourg. It will be a unique opportunity for in-depth empirical, methodological and conceptual discussions bringing together social scientists from a variety of disciplines (law, economics, political science, history, sociology, science studies...) working on various aspects of health policy, regulation and outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus a series of issues that present an ongoing challenge for social scientists working in fields where much of the expertise and expert knowledge fueling practitioners and decision-makers is derived from the natural sciences. How can we integrate epidemiological data and expertise when evaluating economic effects of disease, preventive policy measures or intellectual property rights? How can we master epigenetic frameworks, neurological explanations of collective behavior, or evaluate the way in which research from life sciences is marshalled in policy-making or in establishing health and safety rules for the workplace? How can we study claims by specialized administrations, regulators or politicians that decisions are based on “the best scientific evidence” or “academic consensus”? How are policies based on data on infection rates balanced against restrictions to the fundamental rights of citizens in a democratic society? How should more quantitative orientated social scientists work with datasets or data analysis produced by the OMS, the OECD, the European Union or national governments? Should quantitative data on the economy, social evolutions, the environment, medicine produced by public or private institutions be handled differently? What are the opportunities, challenges and possible biases

of data based on web scraping, data harvesting from online sources and machine learning applied to health issues? How are causal stories including, but not exclusive to scientific knowledge, appropriated and translated into practice by ordinary citizens?

These questions raise important methodological and epistemological issues from several standpoints: How does “technical” knowledge circulate from one social space into another? How do actors redefine, reconfigure and translate such knowledge and data into their respective fields of social practice (into the bureaucratic field, political field, among economic decision makers or law practitioners, for example)? More reflexively, how much mastery of complex scientific or abstract knowledge is required to obtain a critical distance while understanding the internal logics of knowledge production? Does a legal scholar need a deep understanding of disease transmission mechanisms to understand rulings on the constitutionality of certain lock-down measures? How much understanding of drug therapeutics are required for an economist working on innovation in the pharmaceuticals industry or on the economics of health policy? Do social scientists need to be able to read epidemiological studies to work on European regulations on pesticides or chemical exposure?

While the summer school will seek to bring together researchers specialized in European studies and comparative research on health related subjects it will be open to more monographic research projects grappling with similar issues.

Objectives

The residential Summer school pursues three objectives:

- The promotion of interdisciplinary dialogue around common objects through the confrontation and diffusion of research concepts, methods and techniques that have developed in different disciplines.
- the development of forms of reflexivity to promote critical distance to knowledge claims and reflect on ways in which academic research feeds back into public debate, policy making and social practice.
- the intensive socialization of an on-site summer school will help build contacts and networks of like-minded young scholars.

Organization

The Summer school will be organized around 6 half-day sessions and will take place at the Institut du Travail near the main campus of the University of Strasbourg. Each 3 hours session will be dedicated to a theme which will follow the same structure: a keynote presentation of 45 minutes by a senior researcher will focus on the state of the art, methodological questions, research practice and perspectives; a discussion of three to five papers written by participants and lead by participants will seek to operationalize the issue of each theme; an open discussion with all participants.

The sessions will be structured as follows:

1) *How much do we need to know about life sciences to apply SSH perspectives to health?*

Keynote: Emmanuelle Rial-Sebbag, Research Director Inserm, CERPOP, Toulouse University/Inserm

2) *Knowledge transfer in health regulation.*

Keynote: Jean-Noël Jouzel, CNRS Research Professor, Centre for the Sociology of Organizations, Sciences Po Paris

3) *Transnational circulation and “local” appropriation of health science*

Keynote: To be confirmed

4) *Promises, limits and the socio-economic impact of the use of “big data” in health*

Keynote: Eric-André Sauleau, Professor of biostatistics, ICube Laboratory, CNRS, University of Strasbourg

5) *Historical configurations of health knowledge.*

Keynote: Claude Diebolt, CNRS Research Professor, BETA research centre, University of Strasbourg

Application process

The Summer school is open to all researchers interested in developing their skills or participating in these interdisciplinary discussions and perspectives on health related topics involving complex data or knowledge. This includes some senior researchers or lecturers, but primarily post-doctoral students, and PhD students.

We plan to bring together a total of 30 scholars. **Discussions will be held in English.**

Participants will be expected to remain for the entire duration of the Summer school.

About half the participants will be housed at the Institut du travail, others in nearby hotels. There are no participation fees and the ITI MAKerS will cover all costs throughout the duration of the summer school. The participants are expected to cover their travel expenses through their home institutions.

Please send a **CV and one to two page description** of a paper proposal describing the research object, the methodological approach and the empirical material with an indication of the most appropriate session, to the organizers (jay.rowell@unistra.fr; saadaoui@unistra.fr; mrocca@unistra.fr) by **July 1, 2021**.

Participants will be rapidly informed on the status of their admission and will be asked to send their papers of approximately 10 pages by **August 15, 2021**.