



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

8,647: Kreativität/Creativity: Ecologies of Organization and Entrepreneurship

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,647.1.00 Kreativität/Creativity: Ecologies of Organization and Entrepreneurship](#) -- Englisch -- [Steyaert Chris](#), [Beyes Timon](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Participation in this course is not via bidding but via a (max) one-page motivation explaining your interest and affinity to the course theme and its design. Students interested in this course are asked to send their letter to chris.steyaert@unisg.ch no later than Monday 14 February 2022 (at noon) with notice of acceptance on February 17th.

The European Summer Academy, enabled by the German Haniel Foundation, brings together MA students from five different European business schools and universities: the University of St. Gallen, the Copenhagen Business School, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Ca'Foscari University of Venice, and Paris Dauphine University.

The Academy is organized in conjunction with the Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy at Copenhagen Business School, and will be carried out in cooperation with Leuphana University Lüneburg's Centre for Digital Cultures.

The Academy will have its base in Berlin, Germany and take place between 30/05 and 03/06. Thanks to the generous support of the Haniel Foundation, we can offer free accommodation as well as covering (train) travel to Berlin and back.

Learning objectives

The course "Ecologies of organization and entrepreneurship" has as learning goals:

1. understanding the history and present of thinking organization ecologically;
2. inquiring empirically into ecologies of organization and identifying its different shapes;
3. learning to think visually, spatially and performatively in devising and realizing an exhibition experience.

Course content

As media bear witness to collapsing ecosystems and environmental breakdown, we are being asked to consider whether, amid a managerial enthusiasm for productivity, possession and growth, we have forgotten these forces are often accompanied by their shadow: the barren, the denuded and decay. Can practices of organization, management and entrepreneurship find meaningful ways to re-address the balance? Is it even possible?

Addressing these questions requires a rethinking and an understanding of organization as fundamentally ecological. In the wake of ecological thinking, the human and her/his organizational forms is being placed amid a democracy of things, no longer centre



stage, yet still distinct as that 'thing' to which the anthropological question of its own existence arises. Ecological thinking studies the relational processes of systemic openness, receptivity and affect, and potential through which life worlds are organized, including those of human beings. In this sense, talks of units, individuals, entrepreneurs and formal organizations gives way to talk of gatherings, spheres, assemblages, milieus or interiors; talk of cause and effect gives way to talk of immanence, affect, resonance, touch and association; talk of laws gives way to talk of tendencies and patterns; talk of symbols and classifications gives way to talk of expressions and ruptures; talk of prediction gives way to talk of attunement and speculation; talk of categories gives way to talk of intensities; talk of power as control gives way to talk of power as a vital, if vulnerable, life force.

The Summer Academy is dedicated to understand and exploring organizational, managerial and entrepreneurial forms and processes along these lines: as fundamentally ecological. This entails using the city of Berlin as empirical site for: from urban gardening to neighbourhood sharing schemes, from saving and re-using discarded infrastructures to sustainable clubbing, from protest movements to political initiatives, from scenes of disconnection to sites of repair, care and maintenance. Joined by researchers of all participating universities as well as guests, we will jointly work towards an exhibition of the students' findings on organizational ecologies.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

After an introduction/preparation session, the course is organized in five parts and runs over 5 days, which consist of thematic discussions, on-site visits, guest speakers, preparatory exercises and project work. Part 1 consists of exploring the history and present of understanding organization, management and entrepreneurship ecologically. Part 2 consists of field work and empirical research based on specific organizational initiatives, processes and milieus. In Part 3, we develop empirical findings through literature research. Part 4 is for preparing and executing the exhibition, while Part 5 is setting up the exhibition and presenting the findings.

Based on developing mixed groups from the various universities, the learning process centers on the fieldwork of small ecological projects in the urban context of Berlin, which are both reflected conceptually and personally respectively by drawing upon the preparatory readings and group reflections.

Contextual Studies are considered part of **Contact Learning**; thus, taking part properly implies **regular attendance**, be it online or in the classroom. In order to fully comply with the distance and hygiene rules applicable at the university, the course can be taught online or in smaller groups. It is the students' own responsibility to ensure that there is **no timetable clash** between the courses they have chosen. A detailed course outline and all relevant documents will be made available on **Study.net**. -Only the current timetable as published on **Stundenplan online** does apply.

Course literature

A compendium of journal articles and book chapters will be made available online.

Indicative list of texts:

- Arendt, Hannah (1958). *The Human Condition*. University of Chicago Press.
- Beyes, Timon and Robin Holt (2020). The topographical imagination: Space and organization theory. *Organization Theory*, 1(2): 1-26.
- Beyes, Timon, Robin Holt and Claus Pias (eds.) (2020) *Oxford Handbook of Media, Technology and Organization Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Cohen, Tom, Clare Colebrook, and J. Hillis Miller (2016) *Twilight of the Anthropocene Idols*. London: Open Humanities Press.
- Grosz, Elizabeth (2017) *The Incorporeal*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Hörl, Erich (2017) *General Ecology: The New Ecological Paradigm*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Leonardi, Paul, Bonnie Nardi and Jannis Kallinikos (eds.) (2012) *Materiality and Organizing: Social Interaction in a Technological World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Peters, John Durham (2015) *The Marvellous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Strathern, Marilyn (2020) *Relations: An Anthropological Account*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in SpS2022, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course is conducted online via the platform:
- The recordings of the course are available for 30 day;



- The lecturer informs via e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- Course content such as excursion to Berlin are cancelled but local empirical projects will be activated.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The presentations are conducted online and are being recorded.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

individual conceptual paper

Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Written work must be written without outside help according to the known citation standards, and a declaration of authorship must be attached, which is available as a template on the StudentWeb.

Documentation (quotations, bibliography, etc.) must be carried out universally and consistently according to the requirements of the chosen/specified citation standard such as e.g. APA or MLA.

The legal standard is recommended for legal work (cf. by way of example: FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R., SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (the latest edition in each case), or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The reference sources of information (paraphrases, quotations, etc.) that has been taken over literally or in the sense of the original text must be integrated into the text in accordance with the requirements of the citation standard used. Informative and bibliographical notes must be included as footnotes (recommendations and standards e.g. in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien (latest edition)).

For all written work at the University of St.Gallen, the indication of page numbers is mandatory, regardless of the standard chosen. Where page numbers are missing in sources, the precise designation must be made differently: chapter or section title, section number, article, etc.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Group presentation in form of exhibition



Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Short oral reflection

Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

The students are asked to write a preparatory (conceptual) paper (12.000 characters with spaces (exclusive of front page and references) on ecologies of organization. In groups that intermix participants from the five universities, students will devise, prepare and realize an exhibition of their findings presented at the end of the week. Furthermore, students explain their learnings and reflections following the exhibition.

Examination relevant literature

The exam literature consists of the readings in the literature list and all handouts of presentations.

Administrative requirements

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Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 27 January 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 11 April 2022).