

Summer School on Elites, Power and Inequalities

University of Lausanne, 16 – 21 June 2024

Sunday 16 June 2024: Géopolis Building, Room 2130

From 15h30 Welcome coffee, in front of room 2130

16h00 – 17h15 Keynote 1: The alleged break-up and the contemporary make-up of family capitalism. A view from Norway.

Maren Toft, University of Oslo, Oslo

Readings:

Hansen, M. N., & Toft, M. (2021). Wealth accumulation and opportunity hoarding: Class-origin wealth gaps over a quarter of a century in a Scandinavian country. *American Sociological Review*, 86(4), 603-638.

Toft, M., & Hansen, M. N. (2022). Dynastic cores and the borrowed time of newcomers. Wealth accumulation and the Norwegian one percent. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 73(2), 291-314.

17h45 Welcome Picnic, on the shores of Lake Geneva

Monday 17 June 2024: Géopolis Building, Room 2130

9h00 – 10h15 Keynote 2: Why Wealth is White in the United States?

Julia Ott, The New School for Social Research, New York

Readings:

Ott, J. (2018). What Was the Great Bull Market? Value, Valuation, and Financial History. In *American Capitalism: New Histories* (pp. 63-95). Columbia University Press.

Ott, J. (2022). Why Is Wealth White. *Southern Cultures*, 28(4), 30-55.

10h45 – 12h45 Paper Workshop A: Wealth and local Elites (Maren Toft and François Schoenberger) – Room 2130

- Emma Ischinsky: *Wealth in the Media. A Quantitative Content Analysis of the Media Representation of Germany's Super-Rich*
- Céline Roy: *Swiss urban/local elites*
- Maria Belen Masi: *The rich and the city. An Intersectional Analysis of privilege in Barcelona*

Paper Workshop B: Elites and Climate (Thomas David, Audrey Loetscher and Anton Larsen) – Room 2122

- Caroline Ahler Christesen: *How to decarbonize states as investors and owners?*
- Juliana Mazzucotelli: *Adapting to Water Stress - A Comparative Study of Environmental Injustices Among Elites in the Context of Global Change*
- Andrea Farioli: *The “climatization” of agricultural and food policies. Questioning the transformation of public policies in the face of the climate crisis.*

14h00 – 16h00 Paper Workshop C: Elites and Race (Julia Ott and Pierre Eichenberger) – Room 2130

- Ruiyi Li: *Precarious Elites*
- Anne Zhou-Thalamy: *The race of capital. A study of Asian executives in multinational corporations in France*
- Jorge Quesada Velazco: *Black Lives Matter and the Diffusions of Corporate Racial Justice Pledges*

Paper Workshop D: Young Business Elites (Christoph Ellersgaard and Pedro Araujo) – Room 2122

- Alonso Pi Cholula: *Elite MBAs in Mexico City*
- Johanna Behr: *Career Trajectories and Professional Socialization of Aspiring Elites in the Swiss Field of Finance*
- Shuyue Wang: *Chinese tech workers in the SF Bay Area*

16h30 – 18h00 Method session 1: Should the elites be protected? Practical and ethical considerations on research data management.

Anne-Sophie Delval, University of Lausanne, Lausanne

Readings:

Ellersgaard, C. H., Ditlevsen, K., & Larsen, A. G. (2022). Say my name? Anonymity or not in elite interviewing. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 25(5), 673–686. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2021.1932717>

Corti, L., Van den Eynden, V., Bishop, L., Woolard, M. (2019). *Managing and Sharing Research Data: A Guide to Good Practice*. Second Edition. Sage [Online resources](#)

Tuesday 18 June 2024: Géopolis Building, Room 2130

9h00 – 10h15 Keynote 3: Studying Elites in Space and Time

Christoph Ellersgaard, Copenhagen Business School & Anton Larsen, Roskilde University

Readings:

- Rossier, T., Ellersgaard, C. H., Larsen, A. G., & Lunding, J. A. (2022). From integrated to fragmented elites. The core of Swiss elite networks 1910–2015. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 73(2), 315-335.
- Ellersgaard, C. H., & Larsen, A. G. (2023). The Power Elite in the Welfare State 2012–2017: Stability and Change in the Key Institutional Orders of the Core of Power Networks in Denmark. *Social Forces*, 102(2), 790-813.

10h45 – 12h45 Paper Workshop E: Business Elites (Stéphanie Ginalski and Pierre Eichenberger) – Room 2130

- Maia Müller: *The reactions of international business associations to attempts at regulating multinational corporations: a transnational coordinated response, 1964-1992*
- Tanguy Brun: *The greening of European capitalism. Strategies and adaptations of financial firms facing the ecological crisis.*
- Majsa Grosen: *Explaining corporate performance: The long-term organizational network embeddedness of the Danish corporate elite*

14h00 – 15h30 Roundtable 1: Publishing on Power and Elites

Participants: Julia Ott, The New School, New York and former editor of *Capitalism*; Kevin Young, University of Massachusetts and member of the editorial board of the *Review of International Political Economy* (by zoom); Thierry Rossier, University of Lausanne & Anne Zhou-Thalamy, Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris.

Moderator: Felix Bühlmann

16h00 – 17h30 Method session 2: Network Analysis and Visualization in Research on Elites

Christoph Ellersgaard, Copenhagen Business School & Anton Larsen, Roskilde University

Reading:

- Larsen, A. G., & Ellersgaard, C. H. (2017). Identifying power elites—K-cores in heterogeneous affiliation networks. *Social Networks*, 50, 55-69.

Wednesday 19 June 2024: Geneva Excursion

Morning **Urban elite stroll – Luxury production and Luxury Consumption in Geneva (Sébastien Chauvin, Claire Cosquer)**

14h00 – 15h30 Method session 3: The birth of an interdisciplinary center of digital humanities and multilateralism in Geneva: issues and challenges.

Davide Rodogno, Grégoire Mallard, Yves Corpataux, Charlotte Roy, Giuliano Beniamino Fleri, Sylvia Nissim, The Graduate Institute, Geneva

Readings:

Gray, I., & Cointet, J. P. (2023). Multilateralism of the Marginal: Least Developed Countries and International Climate Negotiations, 1995–2016. *American Journal of Sociology*, 129(3), 796-855.

Moretti, F. (2015). Bankspeak: The Language of World Bank Reports, 1946–2012.

16h00 – 17h30 Keynote 4: Viewing Inequality through the eyes of Elites

Graziella Moraes Silva, The Graduate Institute, Geneva

Readings:

López, M., Moraes Silva, G., Teeger, C., & Marques, P. (2022). Economic and cultural determinants of elite attitudes toward redistribution. *Socio-economic review*, 20(2), 489-514.

Moraes Silva, Graziella & Silva-Muller, Livio (2024). Whose merit and which redistribution? Deservingness and varieties of redistributive preferences in Brazil, South Africa and beyond (work in progress)

18h30 Diner Geneva – Restaurant « Saveur & Passion »

Thursday 20 June 2024: Géopolis Building, Room 2130

09h15 – 10h15: Keynote 5: Tracing Elite Trajectories Through Archives: The Dilemma for Historians

Yi-Tang Lin, University of Zurich, Zurich

Readings:

Yi-Tang, Lin. Navigating between Political Authorities: Chinese Rockefeller Fellows in Biology and Chemistry and Their Career Trajectories from 1949 to 1966. In: *Knowledge, Power, and Networks: Elites in Transition in Modern China*, edited by Cécile Armand, Christian Henriot, et Huei-min Sun, 289321. Brill, 2022.

10h45 – 12h15 Method session 4: Interviews and Ethnography

Sébastien Chauvin, University of Lausanne and Claire Cosquer, University of Lausanne

Readings:

- Susan Ostrander "“Surely you're not in this just to be helpful” Access, Rapport, and Interviews in Three Studies of Elites." *Journal of contemporary Ethnography* 22(1), 1993: 7-27.

Optional readings:

- Michael Gilding, "Motives of the rich and powerful in doing interviews with social scientists." *International Sociology*, 25(6), 2010: 755-777.
- Rachel Sherman, "Methodological appendix: Money talks". Pp. 239-278 in *Uneasy Street. The Anxieties of Affluence*, Princeton University Press, 2017.
- Karen Ho, "'Studying Up' Wall Street - Reflections on Theory and Methodology", Ch.2, p.29-48 in Luis Aguiar and Christopher Schneider, *Researching Amongst Elites: Challenges and Opportunities in Studying Up*, Routledge, 2012.

14h00 – 16h00 Paper Workshop F: Political Elites and States (Emmanuel Murlon-Druol and André Mach) – Room 2130

- Helle Dyrendahl Staven: *The careers, expertise, and ethics of elite tax lawyers across state and market institutions*
- Muhammad Muneeb Salman Khan *Advising Security: Elitism in National Security Sector of Pakistan*
- Michele Debernardi: *Focusing on the process of EU enlargement since the early 1990s, I ask: How do norms, values and ideas circulate throughout the enlarging EU?*

Paper Workshop G: Elites and Academia (Thierry Rossier and Felix Bühlmann) – Room 2122

- Timothy Schürmann: *The Swiss Student Union between Cold War agenda and the new student condition*
- Maurizio Raselli: *Switzerland as a spreader of modernity to other regions through the eyes of André Roch*
- Blandine Ribotta: *Romantic relationships as alliances for negotiating career pursuit in science*

16h30 – 18:00 Keynote 5: The incomplete history of the euro and the study of elites

Emmanuel Murlon-Druol, European University Institute, Florence

Readings:

Lemercier, C. (2015). Formal network methods in history: why and how?. *Social networks, political institutions, and rural societies*, 281-310.

Drach, A., & Murlon-Druol, E. (2023). Les fabricants de la coopération économique et monétaire européenne: personnel et réseaux de la Direction générale des affaires économiques et financières de la Commission européenne, 1957-1992. *Revue d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine*, 70(4), 143-177.

Friday 21 June 2024 : Géopolis Building, Room 2130

09h00 – 10h15 Keynote 6: 'Born to Rule: The Making and Remaking of the British elite'

Sam Friedman, London School of Economics, London

Readings:

Reeves, Aaron & Friedman, Sam (2024). *Born to Rule*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chapters 3 and 4 (*please do not circulate!*)

10h45 – 12h45 Paper Workshop H: Elite Education (Sam Friedman and Anne-Sophie Delval) – Room 2130

- Tina Thakur: *Elite Education, Class Privilege and Globalization: A Study of International School in India*
- Dwinanda Ardhi Swasono: *Training future elites through the Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (Lembaga Pengelola Dana Pendidikan/LPDP) scholarships*
- Simone Mejding Poulsen: *Selecting and being Selected: gender and privilege*

Paper Workshop I: Eastern European Elites (Jan Rosset and Fabio Cescon) – Room 2122

- Vitalina Dragun: *Winning, Preserving, Legitimizing, and Transmitting: An Inquiry into Contemporary Russian Economic Elites (1991-2020)*
- Adéla Vasku: *Formation of elites in the Czech Republic within the period of 1993-2023*
- Laura Mrčela: *Forms of capital in Slovenian elites*

14h00 – 15h30 Roundtable 2: Review of the week - outlook to future research on elites.

François Schoenberger and Lena Ajdacic, University of Lausanne, Lausanne & all participants