

PhD-seminar: Times in Plural. Media, history, culture.

Date: Mon Oct 22 – Fri Oct 26

Place: Centre for Advanced Study, Oslo, Norway

7.5 credits

Call for Papers

At present there is a renewed interest in questions that have to do with time, temporality and history, after a couple of decades with rather intense preoccupation with post-structuralist theories and after a series of spatial turns. This PhD-seminar takes its cue from the basic observation that time is always multiple, involving different calendars (the Julian, the Gregorian, the Republican) as well as the various speeds and rhythms directing different parts of society and people's individual lives. In addition to empty, absolute and mathematical clock-time, going back to Isaac Newton and Christian Huygens, there are the times of human experience, first theorized by Saint Augustine, later by Henri Bergson, Edmund Husserl and others. Between clock time and human experience, we find what we could call social time, which cannot be reduced to either of them, but rather emerge as an interface or a field of entanglement, where the technologies of clock-time and the plurality of human experience come together. This field is produced and regulated by a wide range of media, from bell towers to newspapers, to digital platforms, which enable people to act in collective and synchronized ways. Recently, however, social time are brought out of sync by the impact of different speeds, rhythms, and durations, which appear to emerge from nature, as in the case of accelerating climate change, population aging and quantum physics.

This PhD-course explores ways of knowing, mediating and imagining time, time scales and intertemporal connections from a broad historical and geographical perspective. It looks at models for dividing and synchronizing times of history and times of nature, and how this changed in the modern era. For the course we want to gather students who take an interest in the role of multiple times in culture, history and media. We will address an open-ended set of questions and theories, linked mainly by an interest in how times split up, come in conflict and are synchronized. Students will acquire knowledge about key contributions to theoretical debates on the modern experience of time. Through a combination of approaches from cultural history, media studies, anthropology and STS-studies, participants will also develop analytical skills in relation to some of the conflicting and multiple temporalities of contemporary society.

The course will be a combination of key note lectures, and in-depth discussion of students' work. In addition to a reading list, papers will be pre-circulated and commentators will be appointed to each of them.

Conveners: Anders Ekstrøm (Uppsala University), Espen Ytreberg and Helge Jordheim (CAS and University of Oslo)

Teachers: Geoffrey Bowker (CAS and UC Irvine), Julia Nordblad (Uppsala University), Kristin Asdal (UiO)

Who can apply? All PhD-students. The number of participants are limited to 15.

Costs: No course fee. Hotel rooms for five nights, lunches and some dinners are covered by the organizers. Travels are booked and paid by the participants.

Application: Deadline June 1. Application should include a CV and a 1-3 page paper draft. Notice of acceptance by July 15. Deadline for complete papers (6-10 pages) September 15, which then will be pre-circulated among all participants.

Please send your applications to kari.andersen@ikos.uio.no.

The course is organized as part of the *knowledgemoves network*, which is a collaboration between university departments in Norway and Sweden.