



ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ ΜΕ ΗΛΕΚΤΡΟΝΙΚΟ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΟ

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**Θέμα: Παρατηρήσεις επί του Σχεδίου της Έκθεσης Πιστοποίησης του Προπτυχιακού Προγράμματος Σπουδών Κοινωνιολογίας του Πανεπιστημίου Κρήτης.**

Αξιότιμε κύριε Πρόεδρε της ΕΘΑΑΕ,

Θέλουμε να εκφράσουμε τις ευχαριστίες της ΜΟ.ΔΙ.Π. και του Προέδρου του Τμήματος Κοινωνιολογίας προς τον Πρόεδρο και τα μέλη της Επιτροπής Εξωτερικής Αξιολόγησης και Πιστοποίησης για τα θετικά σχόλια αλλά κυρίως για τις χρήσιμες παρατηρήσεις και συστάσεις τους που αφορούν το Πρόγραμμα Προπτυχιακών Σπουδών Κοινωνιολογίας του Πανεπιστημίου Κρήτης.

Το κείμενο που ακολουθεί περιέχει τις παρατηρήσεις μας που αποσκοπούν στη διευκρίνιση θεμάτων που εξετάστηκαν κατά τη διάρκεια της εξ αποστάσεως διαδικασίας πιστοποίησης και ίσως θα ήταν χρήσιμες για την σύνταξη του τελικού κειμένου της έκθεσης.

Με εκτίμηση

Ο Πρόεδρος της ΜΟΔΙΠ

(υπογραφή)\*

Καθηγητής Γεώργιος Κοσιώρης

\* η υπογραφή έχει τεθεί στο πρωτότυπο που παραμένει στο αρχείο του φορέα



## RESPONSE TO THE ACCREDITATION REPORT FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMME OF SOCIOLOGY- UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

### Introduction

Having carefully read the Draft Accreditation Report for the Undergraduate Study Programme of Sociology, the Department of Sociology of the University of Crete wishes to thank the four Accreditation Panel members (henceforth “EEAP”) for their comprehensive work, our productive discussions and their overall assessment of the Programme. Aiming to follow EEAP’s recommendations leading to its improvement, we present our views on specific points of the Report, based on a constructive discussion at the joint meeting of the OMEA members with the academic staff of the department.

More specifically, we first offer additional evidence, along with highlights of the already presented material, for the EEAP to consider that the programme is “Fully Compliant” on Principle 5. Based on an in-depth exploration of the bibliometric sources suggested by EEAP, we submit documentation to support our request to the EEAP to reconsider its judgment on “Principle 5: Teaching Staff”. Second, we provide details and clarifications regarding specific “areas of weakness” and recommendations for follow-up actions in the conclusions of the report.

### 1. Evidence for “Full Compliance” on Principle 5

Regarding faculty publications, the draft AR concludes that there are “few publications in international journals and especially articles published in journals of higher ranking. As a rule, most articles are published in journals classified as elementary ones (grade 1). We could identify only one exception on grade 2 i.e. advanced. The above are based on the following bibliometric instrument used to check the ranking of journals:

<https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/Forside> It classifies scientific journals according to the scale: 0 for unknown, 1 for elementary and 2 for advanced”.

We explored the Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers using the basic instructions in English (detailed search instructions are in Norwegian) and present the following evidence that is notably different from that in the EEAP report.

From a quick and indicative non-exhaustive search, we located 13 articles by 7 faculty members (Arapoglou, Fournaraki, Gounis, Konstandinidou, Kousis, Zaimakis, Zambarloukou,) published in highly ranked journals (“advanced: 2”) according to the ranking system of the database. These are published in 9 journals including: *European Societies*, *European Urban and Regional Studies*, *History and Anthropology*, *International Migration Review*, *Sociologia Ruralis*, *Stroke*, *Theory and Society*, *Urban Studies*, *Visual Communication*. Our search was limited to tenured faculty publications and concerned only the highly ranked journals, thereby it underestimates the international visibility and development potentials of the department. It is noteworthy that an Associate Professor of the Department has served for 5 consecutive years as editor to one of the journals (*European Urban and Regional Studies*) and continues to be a member of its international advisory committee. It is also worth commenting that the faculty includes regular reviewers in the aforementioned journals, amongst many other highly ranked



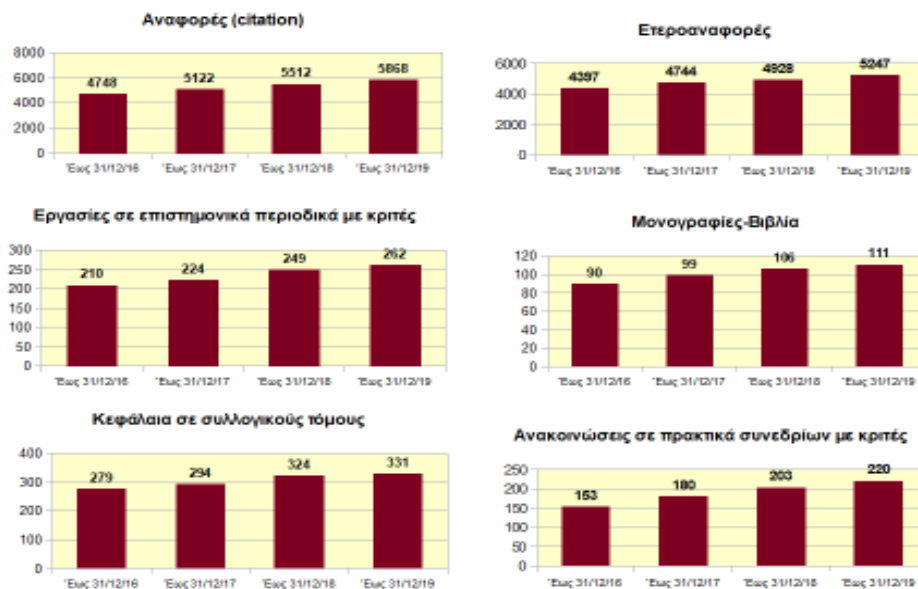
journals. The same database ranks international book and book series publishers. From a quick search it appears that there are five books by the faculty published in Routledge, Berghahn Books and Palgrave Macmillan (i.e. classified to the highest scientific level of the recommended database). The length of the list grows when considering chapter contributions in books of equally high scientific level in this specific database.

Beyond the classification of a single database, the academic impact and international presence of the faculty can also be assessed by publication and citation metrics.

In addition to the above, we wish to refer to the number of publications and citations seen in Figure 1 provided in the Annexes of the Department's Proposal for Accreditation and in the Presentation of the Head of the Department, which are in accordance with the national standards and guidelines for accreditation.

Figure 1.

### Συγγραφικό έργο μελών ΔΕΠ του Τμήματος

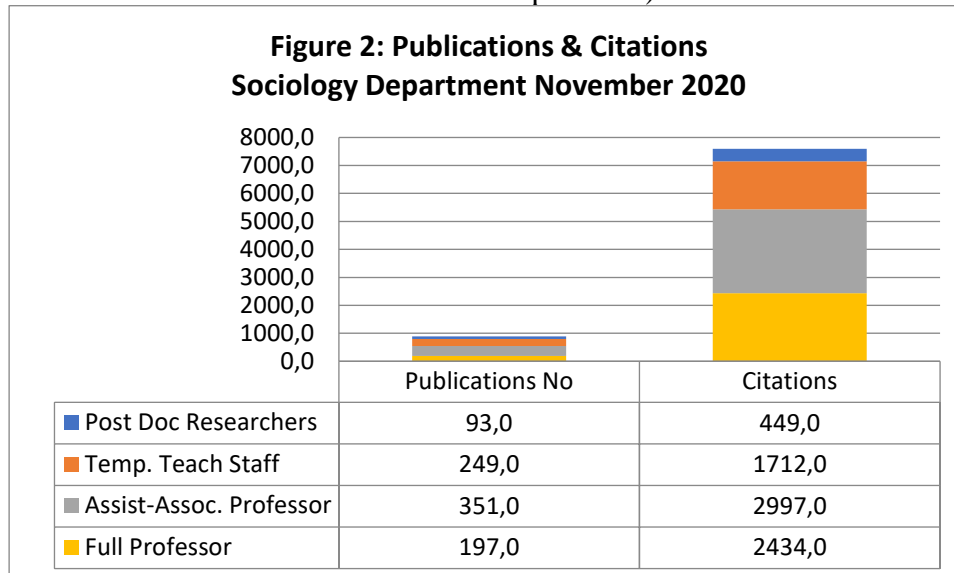


Moreover, these standards, and the related figures for our department, represent a significant effort to consolidate a comprehensive national database, in line with a European effort to improve the limited coverage of SSH research in commercial databases, which cover only 1/3, or even less, of the total number of publications, in countries outside the Anglo Saxon world (e.g. Siversten 2016, Engels et al 2012, Harzing & Alakangas 2016, Kousha, Thelwall & Rezaie 2011).

The EEAP's overview of the faculty's publications reports *"an imbalance between a majority of publications in Greek and a minority of articles published in other languages"* (p22). We provide, in response, additional metrics from Google Scholar, because in all scientific areas Google Scholar citation data is essentially a superset of WoS and Scopus, with substantial extra coverage (Martín-Martín et al 2018). Figure 2 depicts the results yielded by the "Publish or Perish" software using Google Scholar as a source. It should be emphasized that more than 50% of the publications are in English, the total number of faculty publications amounting to 548 items and 5431 citations. In addition to these numbers a very promising picture emerges for post-doc students and temporary teaching staff, mainly as a result of research undertaken in the



department (the EEAP may also consult the Figures of international research projects provided in the Presentation of the Head of the Department).



The EEAP found “*enormous heterogeneity*” “*with regard to areas of competence*” in the faculty (p21). Indeed, diversity and interdisciplinarity is a departmental strength and this is vividly depicted not only in the metrics presented above, but also in qualitative aspects of teaching and research. Multilingual publishing of the faculty is in accordance with the prevalent practice by SSH researchers across Europe, in their attempt to reach an international audience and to produce culturally and societally relevant work in their local language (Kulczycki et al 2020, Siversten 2019). It often takes the form of writing a piece of work in at least two different languages, but we are able to account more practices. A detailed analysis of the faculty publications reveals a dynamic process of “translation” between languages (Greek, English, Italian, German, French, Spanish), between types of publications (reports to articles, articles to books, research monographs to teaching books) and between disciplinary boundaries (from sociology to ethics, political science, geography, history, feminist studies and the reverse).

Last but not least, we wish to briefly clarify the organic connection between education and research as “*It is unclear however how this is to be achieved*” (p22) to the EEAP. Only to mention: using research findings in classes and seminars, incorporating state-of-the art methods, literature and topics in the courses and seminars, translating faculty publications in Greek student books, engaging undergraduate students as research assistants in local, national or international research projects, organizing field trips and visits to sites of research, bringing in contact Greek students with international students supervised by the faculty, encouraging students to participate in the research seminars, workshops and scientific (national or international) conferences of the department.

## 2. Evidence and clarifications on specific “areas of weakness and recommendations for follow-up actions”

In this section we provide details and clarifications regarding specific areas of weakness and recommendations identified in the Conclusions of EEAP’s Draft Accreditation Report.



We begin with the following “area of weakness” *pointed by the EEAP:*

*“Partial adjustment to the needs of the surrounding society, few relations to private enterprises. This results from the practical orientation towards social problems that fails to identify and empower the vectors of sustainable development like the tourist industry and the cultural brand of Cretan products, manufacture, agriculture or even industrial.” (p.33)*

Adjusting Course Modules to the needs of local society and building relations to private tourism or agricultural enterprises in order to activate sustainable development capacity/goals would reflect a university more resource dependent on local structures, as well as a mostly local student body. The great majority of our 1,530 active students come from the Greek mainland and the other islands, while only 276 (17%) are from Crete. Tending to the needs of our students, many of whom come from rural areas, our Programme has included 18 courses on Rural and Environment Sociology, 26 courses focused on Economy, Industry and Labor and 23 Development related courses:

#### **Rurality, Agriculture and Environment**

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1. ΠΕΡΚ221 Society and the Environment
2. ΠΕΡΚ321 Environment and Society (Body and Health)
3. ΠΕΡΚ322 Environmental Movements
4. ΑΓΡΚ290 Rural Sociology: Socioeconomic Transformations in Contemporary Rural Space
5. ΑΓΡΚ291 European Policies in the Agricultural Sector
6. ΑΓΡΚ293 Culture and Nutrition in Rural and Semi-Urban Areas
7. ΑΝΘΚ286 Anthropological and Historical Approaches of Greek Rural Communities
8. ΑΓΡΚ292 Rural world in Mediterranean spaces
9. ΑΝΑΚ270 Society, Technology, and Development
10. ΑΓΡΚ390 Special Topics in Agrarian Sociology
11. ΑΓΡΚ391 Food and Consumption in Agricultural Societies: cultural dimensions
12. ΑΓΡΚ392 Aspects of the Social Transformation of Post-War Rural Greece
13. ΑΓΡΚ393 Rural society, development transformations, environment and new directions
14. ΑΓΡΚ394 Special Issues in Rural Sociology: Agriculture, Food and the Environment- Development under the framework of Economy and Culture.
15. ΑΓΡΚ395 Special Issues in Rural Sociology: Food Security
16. ΑΝΘΚ382 Nutrition and Consumption in crisis periods
17. ΚΟΙΚ293 Social Economy and Sustainable Development
18. ΘΕΩΚ314 Tradition and Modernity in Local Communities

#### **Economy-Industry-Labor**

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1. ΒΙΟΚ276 Industrial Sociology -
2. ΜΕΛΚ286 Society and Economy in Greece
3. ΑΝΑΚ272 Modern Systems of Production
4. ΟΚΕΚ281 Society, Economy, and the State in Post-War Greece
5. ΟΡΓΚ241 Sociology of Organizations
6. ΣΚΕΚ203 Current Issues of Greek Economy and Politics
7. ΚΟΙΚ232 Economic Sociology
8. ΑΝΑΚ372 Technological and Economic Restructuring
9. ΑΜΕΚ260 Forms of Informal Labor ΥΕΠ
10. ΕΡΓΚ280 Sociological approaches of Work and Employment
11. ΒΙΟΚ276 Industrial Sociology - Sociology of Work II
12. ΒΙΟΚ277 Technology - Work – Professions
13. ΒΙΟΚ282 Sociology of Small Enterprises ΥΕΠ
14. ΕΡΓΚ279 The State and Labor ΥΕΠ
15. ΕΡΓΚ280 Sociological approaches of Work and employment



16. **ΚΕΚΚ252** Sociology of the Labor Movement
17. **ΚΕΡΚ254** Sociology of the Division of Labor
18. **ΚΕΣΚ257** Sociology of Labor Relations
19. **ΒΙΟΚ275** Industrial Sociology - Sociology of Work
20. **ΕΡΓΚ370** Special Issues in the Sociology of Labor Relations
21. **ΕΡΓΚ371** Labor and Discrimination: Gender-Based and Other Forms of Discrimination
22. **ΕΡΓΚ372** Industrial Relations and Trade unions in times of crisis
23. **ΕΡΓΚ373** Special Topics in the Sociology of Work: Crisis of the Industrial Society of Work
24. **ΕΡΓΚ374** Sociological Approaches of Work and its Organization
25. **ΕΡΓΚ375** Special issues in sociology of work: sociological approaches of unemployment and work precariousness
26. **ΕΡΓΚ376** Special issues in sociology of industrial relations and trade unionism

#### Development related Courses

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1. **ΑΝΑΚ145** Theories of Social Change and Development
2. **ΑΝΑΚ277** Social Transformations
3. **ΠΟΛΚ267** Locality, Globalization and social change in times of crisis.
4. **ΠΟΛΚ268** Social change and crisis  
**ΠΟΛΚ267** Locality, Globalization and social change in times of crisis.
5. **ΑΝΑΚ271** Local Development and Local Government
6. **ΑΝΑΚ273** Communitarianism and Modern Society
7. **ΑΝΑΚ274** Sociology of Local Communities
8. **ΑΝΑΚ275** Third World Countries and Development
9. **ΑΝΑΚ276** Contemporary Greek Society-Facets
10. **ΑΝΑΚ278** Perspectives of the commons: social and solidarity economy
11. **ΑΝΑΚ283** Introduction to the Theory of Regional Development
12. **ΚΟΙΚ293** Social Economy and Sustainable Development
13. **ΚΟΙΚ294** Social Aspects of Crisis in Greece
14. **ΚΟΙΚ264** Introduction to Social Policy
15. **ΚΤΑΚ399** Local Development - Local Self-Administration: Special Topics in Social Policy
16. **ΠΟΛΚ263** European Social Policy
17. **ΑΝΑΚ320** Special Topics in the Sociology of Development
18. **ΑΝΑΚ370** Special Topics in the Society, Technology, and Development
19. **ΑΝΑΚ375** Special Topics in the Third World and Development
20. **ΘΕΩΚ314** Tradition and Modernity in Local Communities
21. **ΙΣΤΚ344** Collective action in the modern world system
22. **ΑΝΑΚ278** Perspectives of the commons: social and solidarity economy
23. **ΑΝΑΚ283** Introduction to the Theory of Regional Development

The following two conclusions have also been made:

*“The overall orientation of the Programme towards social problem-solving Sociology with too much emphasis on the practical aspects and less caring for the theoretical aspects of theory and epistemology. This results to the programme being near to a programme for social workers rather than sociologists. The mentality of sociology for sociology is overstepped by the attitude of “sociology in order to change society”.” (p. 33)*

*“Implementation of the mentality of “sociology for sociology” and inspire a curiosity for the more theoretical problems of sociology. Work more from theoretical sociological problems than for practical social problems. This should broaden students’ investigation capability and insight into social-sociological problems like “solidarity” and “anomy”, “social tie” and “everyday life” etc., instead of simply dealing with social problems like drugs or criminality.*



*As a local stakeholder told the EEAP, the reason why he prefers sociologists to social workers is that sociologists have a broader comprehension of society as a whole.” (p.34)*

In response to the above, the Courses offered aim at providing a broad orientation to large theoretical and research areas of Sociology. Courses on “Forms of Social Organisation and Transformations” related to the classical origins of Sociology, those on “Culture: Social practices and conflicts” are based on the theories and contemporary sociological thought and research. They encourage reflective sociological thought in the context of an increasingly globalised sociology and are not solution-driven. A strong indication of this are the following 53 theory courses, 19 methods and 6 social movement courses that have been taught in the Department:

#### **Theory Courses**

1. **ΘΕΩΚ106** Social Theory I (Classical Theory)
2. **ΘΕΩΚ107** Social Theory II (Classical Theory)
3. **ΘΕΩΚ108** Social Theory III (Modern)
4. **ΘΕΩΚ109**- Classical Social Theory Laboratory
5. **ΘΕΩΚ110**- Modern Social Theory Laboratory
6. **ΘΕΩΚ200** The Frankfurt School: Habermas, Honneth, Wellmer
7. **ΘΕΩΚ201** Autonomy and Imaginary Institution: An Introduction to Castoriades
8. **ΘΕΩΚ205** Constitution and history of sociological theory
9. **ΘΕΩΚ207** Marx and Weber: Political Aspects
10. **ΘΕΩΚ213** Sociology Theories of Modernity
11. **ΘΕΩΚ214** Sociology of Elites
12. **ΘΕΩΚ217** Contemporary Liberal Theories of Justice / Theories of Human Rights
13. **ΘΕΩΚ218** Modernity and Democracy
14. **ΘΕΩΚ220** Epistemology of the Social Sciences
15. **ΘΕΩΚ221** Modernity: Contemporary Theoretical Perspectives
16. **ΘΕΩΚ222** Special Issues in Social Theory
17. **ΘΕΩΚ250** Basic Types of Sociological Theory
18. **ΘΕΩΚ202** Critical Theory
19. **ΘΕΩΚ203** Political Theory
20. **ΘΕΩΚ204** Political Theory of Modernity
21. **ΘΡΗΚ285** Sociology of Religion
22. **ΘΕΩΚ309** Special Topics in Sociological Theory
23. **ΘΕΩΚ310** Special Topics in Classical Theorists in Sociology
24. **ΘΕΩΚ311** Special Topics in Modern Social Theory I
25. **ΘΕΩΚ312** Special Topics in Modern Social Theory II
26. **ΘΕΩΚ313** Special Topics in Contemporary Social Theory III
27. **ΘΕΩΚ314** Tradition and Modernity in Local Communities
28. **ΘΕΩΚ315** Special Issues in the Sociology of Elites
29. **ΘΕΩΚ316** Social and Sociological Thought in Greece during the First Half of the 20th Century
30. **ΘΕΩΚ317** The Weberian Thesis on the Protestant Ethic and the Contemporary Debate
31. **ΘΕΩΚ318** Critical Theory and J. Habermas
32. **ΘΕΩΚ319** History and Praxis
33. **ΘΕΩΚ320** The Communitarian Critique of Liberalism
34. **ΘΕΩΚ321** Special Topics in Sociological Theory: Theories of Individualization
35. **ΘΕΩΚ322** Special Topics in Political Philosophy: Contemporary Theories of Radical Democracy
36. **ΘΕΩΚ323** Theories of Recognition
37. **ΘΕΩΚ324** Systems Theories
38. **ΘΕΩΚ325** From Social Philosophy to Social Theory
39. **ΘΕΩΚ326** Epistemology and meta-theory of the Social Sciences
40. **ΘΕΩΚ327** Critical Theory



41. **ΘΕΩΚ328** Special Issues in Social Theory
42. **ΘΕΩΚ329** Enlightenment, theories and criticisms
43. **ΘΕΩΚ330** Special Issues in Sociological Theory
44. **ΘΕΩΚ331** Karl Marx's Social Theory
45. **ΘΕΩΚ332** Theories of Fascism
46. **ΘΕΩΚ326** Epistemology and meta-theory of the Social Sciences
47. **ΘΕΩΚ327** Critical Theory
48. **ΘΕΩΚ328** Special Issues in Social Theory
49. **ΘΕΩΚ329** Enlightenment, theories and criticisms
50. **ΘΕΩΚ330** Special Issues in Sociological Theory
51. **ΘΕΩΚ331** Karl Marx's Social Theory
52. **ΘΕΩΚ332** Theories of Fascism
53. **ΣΚΕΚ204** Methodology of Social Science

#### Social Movement Courses

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1. **KINK371** Special Topics in the Sociology of Social Movements
2. **KINK372** Special Topics in Collective Action Research
3. **ΚΟΑΚ370** Socio-economic Restructuring and Social Movements
4. **KINK251** Contemporary Theories of Collective Action and Social Movements
5. **KINK252** Collective action and social protest during times of crisis
6. **ΙΣΤΚ344** Collective action in the modern world system

#### Methods Courses

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1. **ΣΤΑΚ130** Social Statistics I: Theory and Data Analysis using Statistical Software
2. **ΣΤΑΚ130-** Laboratory of Social Statistics I
3. **ΜΕΘΚ131** Methods and Techniques of Sociological Research I: Qualitative Methods
4. **ΜΕΘΚ131-** Laboratory of Qualitative Methods
5. **ΜΕΘΚ132** Methods and Techniques of Sociological Research II: Quantitative Methods
6. **ΜΕΘΚ388** Methodological Issues of Quantitative Social Research
7. **ΜΕΘΚ389** Methodological Approaches of Gender Research
8. **ΜΕΘΚ390** Biographical and Narrative Approaches in Sociology
9. **ΜΕΘΚ391** Theory and Analysis of Discourse
10. **ΜΕΘΚ392** Research Methods Seminar
11. **ΜΕΘΚ393** Collection and analysis of qualitative data in Sociology
12. **ΜΕΘΚ394** Seminar in Quantitative Methods
13. **ΜΕΘΚ395** Methodological Approaches in the Research of the Feminist Movement
14. **ΜΕΘΚ396** Applied Social Research
15. **ΜΕΘΚ397** Special Topics in Social Demography
16. **ΜΕΘΚ398** Methodological Issues in Contemporary Sociology
17. **ΜΕΘΚ399** «Mixed Methods Design Applications in Social Research»
18. **ΜΕΘΚ400** Special Topics in Qualitative Methods: Textual Analysis
19. **ΜΕΘΚ291** Methods of Gender Research

The reorganisation of the curricula following the previous assessment was based on a thorough research in international sources and in comparison to the curricula of Sociology of the most prominent Universities worldwide. The inclusion of central contemporary fields of sociological research (such as Urban Sociology, Historical Sociology, Sociology of Education, Media and Discourse Studies, Gender Studies, etc.) reflects our attention to the developments of Global Sociology. The lectures and seminars also center on issues related to gender, class and race or ethnicity, discrimination, nationalism and immigration, as described in works of reference in this area (i.e. Robin Cohen & P. Kennedy, *Global Sociology*, 2013, 3d ed.).





Students enrol in 12 required courses: i) five general theory courses (Introduction to Sociology 1 and 2, and three lectures of Social Theory); ii) two methodological courses and one course of social statistics; iii) four introductory lectures related to the two Scientific Fields, all of them related to basic domains of the Social Sciences (Sociology of Development, Cultural Sociology, Political Sociology, Social History). Required lab courses are related to some of the above lectures and have the same theoretical scope, while they acquaint the students with the texts and the research methods.

The lectures on more specialised topics and the research-oriented seminars focus on specific issues concerning particular sociological questions, and may rarely be solution oriented. In our view, the purpose of a Sociology Department with critical orientation should precisely be the transformation of “social problems” to “sociological issues”, as reflected in the sample of the courses presented above.