PhD Workshop on the Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

The Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty research network (RN22) of the European Sociological Association (ESA) will hold its third PhD Workshop this summer on 6th – 8th September.

The workshop will follow on from the main ESA conference the preceding week. This conference is currently organised as a hybrid format, both in Barcelona and online. Our workshop will take place solely online to increase accessibility, but with an engaging combination of work and social activities. You do not need to take part in the main conference to attend the workshop.

After two very successful PhD workshops in the past in Amsterdam (NL) and Kaunas (LIT), we will build on our experiences to offer an online format which will bring a group of PhD students together to think critically through their research, to learn about emerging approaches to doing theory and methods, to raise important challenges and conundrums, and to get feedback on their writing and thinking. Senior scholars in the research network will be involved to teach, engage and provide feedback.

We welcome applications from PhD students at any point in their research and writing trajectories, who are keen to learn, share and critically reflect on their work, the work of others, and of the heterogeneous disciplinary traditions the workshop will reflect. We are a broad network, representing analytic, interpretative and other traditions in analysing a wide array of social processes and contexts characterised by risk and uncertainty. Past workshops have brought together PhDs from governance and policy studies, applied approaches to health, medicine and midwifery, material semiotics/ANT perspectives, gender studies, organisational studies and other social science domains. This multi-disciplinary, multi-method and theoretically diverse environment, convened by experienced scholars from the research network, makes for a vital and stimulating learning environment.

The workshop will be convened by Patrick Brown (University of Amsterdam) and Maria Grazia Galantino (Sapienza University, Rome), who currently chair the ESA Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty research network, along with Anna Olofsson, a very experienced professor of risk research (Mid-Sweden University) and Veronica Moretti (University of Bologna), the PhD coordinator in the network. We plan on engaging other senior scholars from the network and beyond, in relation to specific topics or themes across the PhDs attending.

The online format will be structured around afternoon meetings for teaching and feeding back on each other’s work, alongside a regular communal morning coffee (‘fika’ in Swedish) and other social activities to foster cooperation, support and the building of friendships and networks.

The costs of the workshop are covered by the ESA and the research network, though we do ask that applicants commit to attending all afternoon sessions and other social activities across the three days of the workshop.

To apply, please submit an extended abstract (350-450 words), based on the chapter or article you would like to be discussed at the workshop, or reflecting the broader PhD study, as a Word.doc or PDF which you should send to both Patrick Brown (p.r.brown@uva.nl) and Veronica Moretti (veronica.moretti4@unibo.it)

The deadline for abstract submissions is March 15th and we will let you know about
whether you are accepted by mid-April. We will limit numbers to enhance the social and intellectual exchange.