



## Call for Papers

# National Traditions in the Social and Cultural Sciences

Spring School  
of the Doctoral Programme  
“Sociology and History of the Social and Cultural Sciences”  
University of Graz  
25-27 April, 2022

April 25, 2022, 5-7 p.m.  
Keynote

“Reconceptualizing National Traditions in the Social and Human Sciences”

Prof. Johan HEILBRON

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## Presentations on April 26 and 27, 2022

Since their beginnings, the social and cultural sciences have evolved along nation-state contexts. Social and cultural scientists themselves have often referred to these traditions of knowledge framed by national societies. Auguste Comte, for example, considered that sociology could only emerge in a specifically French context, after the French Revolution. To this day, national traditions of knowledge structure – explicitly or implicitly – the way we teach and think about the social and cultural sciences. However, compared to the pervasiveness of the notion of national contexts of knowledge production, there has been relatively little explicit work on this topic. In recent decades, the reflection on national contexts in the history of science and

intellectual history has been nourished by processes of globalisation which have brought international interconnections into view. Along with this came criticisms of “methodological nationalism” and the neglect of colonial and postcolonial perspectives in the history of science. However, it seems that even approaches aimed at a transnational or global history of the social and cultural sciences cannot do without a notion of national traditions and contexts of knowledge.

This raises questions such as: In what sense are knowledge cultures, scientific cultures and disciplines “national”? What does “national” mean here? Are we talking about structures of nation-states, linguistic areas, mentalities or constructions of the “national”? What are national traditions in the social and cultural sciences and how can we conceptualise them? What role do language and linguistic barriers play in national knowledge traditions? What is the significance of translation between national contexts? These questions concern not at least the usefulness of contemporary historiographical debates for the history of science and the historical analysis of knowledge cultures, such as the discussions on comparative history, transfer history, *histoire croisée*, postcolonial history, global history or on the sociology of translation. The Spring School will enable discussions on these different aspects of national knowledge traditions and transnational exchange processes in the social and cultural sciences.

The Spring School – organised for the tenth time by the doctoral programme “Sociology and History of Social and Cultural Sciences” (DP SHSCS, <https://doktoratsprogramm-geschichte-soziologie-sozialwissenschaften.uni-graz.at/de/>) – welcomes proposals from researchers at Master's, doctoral and post-doctoral level whose projects are close to the considerations outlined above. The proposals may, for example, deal with basic methodological considerations, but may also concern projects and research related to the thematic field described above. The projects selected will be presented at the Spring School and discussed in a constructive manner by faculty members of the DP. Proposals from all disciplines in the humanities, cultural studies and social sciences are welcome.

Proposals of a maximum length of 500 words (in English or German) should be sent by email to Sabine List ([sab.list@uni-graz.at](mailto:sab.list@uni-graz.at)) by **2 February, 2022**. Please indicate on a scale of 0 to 100 how far the project is advanced. This serves only as an orientation and has no effect on the decision of the programme committee. Authors will be notified in early March 2022. Successful authors will be asked to submit a written version of the 20-minute presentation (in English or German, usually 7 pages) by **1 April, 2022**.

The Spring School will start with a keynote by Prof. Johan Heilbron on 25 April, 2022. The 20-minute presentations of the projects (preferably in English) will take place on 26 and 27 April, 2022.