



Lecture by

Prof. Dr. Johan HEILBRON

(Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique, Paris & University of Uppsala)

Reconceptualizing National Traditions in the Social and Human Sciences

Time: Monday, April 25, 2022, 5-7 p.m.

Place: RESOWI SZ 15.22/G2

Abstract: National traditions of thought were once routinely invoked for understanding cross-national differences in scholarly practices. As these assertions were used for political purposes, reproducing stereotypes of nations and their peculiarities, while being at odds with universalist claims about the validity of scientific knowledge, the very idea of national traditions of thought was contested and eventually largely abandoned. I will argue that national intellectual traditions do represent a significant issue, but that their precise meaning and analytical significance have yet to be properly assessed. Different levels of analysis and specific meanings of the concept need to be distinguished so as to arrive at a conceptualization that is theoretically meaningful and empirically sound.

Johan Heilbron is Director of research at the Centre Européen de Sociologie et de Science Politique (CESSP-CNRS-EHESS) in Paris and affiliated with the University of Uppsala, Department of Education. He was associated with several academic institutions in Europe and a member of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study (2017-18). His research concerns the historical development of the social sciences, economic organizations and institutions, and transnational exchange and cultural globalization. Book publications include: *The Rise of Social Theory* (1995, also in Dutch and French), *The Rise of the Social Sciences and the Formation of Modernity* (co-edited, 2001), *Pour une histoire des sciences sociales: hommage à Pierre Bourdieu* (co-edited, 2004), *French Sociology* (2015, French translation in 2020), *The Social and Human Sciences in Global Power Relations* (co-edited, 2018) and *Pierre Bourdieu et l'art de l'invention scientifique. Enquêter au Centre de sociologie européenne (1959-1969)* (co-edited, 2022).

The lecture inaugurates this year's annual Spring School of the Doctoral Programme "Sociology and History of the Social and Cultural Sciences" (April 25-26, 2022). Find the programme here: <https://doktoratsprogramm-geschichte-soziologie-sozialwissenschaften.uni-graz.at/de/>