

# New interdisciplinary courses



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UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

## Fall semester 2020

### Where and when?

#### "Us" and "Them": Negotiating Progressivity in Multicultural Societies:

Date: Start date September 16, 2020

Time: Wednesday 14:15 – 18:00

(every two weeks, exact dates see KSL)

ECTS: 5 Room: 120, Mittelstrasse 43

Registrations via KSL starting 3/8/2020

#### Introduction to Population Ethics:

Date: Start date September 14, 2020

Time: Monday 14:15 – 16:00 (weekly)

ECTS: 6 (for Bachelor), 7 (for Master students)

Room: tbd

Registrations via KSL starting 1/9/2020

#### Law and Economics and its Criticism as a School of Thought for the Understanding of Law:

Date: 17.9.-17.12.2020

Time: Thursday 10-12 (weekly)

ECTS: 5 Room: tbd

Registrations: via Email. See the details here:

<https://bit.ly/2Ti6jS6>

**Registration Deadline: 16/8/2020**

#### "Us" and "Them": Negotiating Progressivity in Multicultural Societies (KSL Number 466767)

Lecturers: Tina Büchler, Veronika Siegl/ IZFG

Following the so-called 'refugee crisis' in Europe in 2015, certain discourses have gained momentum: Discourses that invoke women's and LGBTIQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer/questioning) rights in order to advance anti-immigrant policies. These debates juxtapose an allegedly 'progressive' women- and queer-friendly European culture against allegedly 'backward', sexist and homophobic immigrant cultures. Particularly, immigrant men become stigmatized as sexist and homophobic aggressors, while both Western and immigrant women and queer people emerge as victims in need of saving. In this course we engage with various manifestations of these racialized, sexualized and gendered discourses as well as with their exclusionary effects.

The course introduces basic concepts from postcolonial, gender and queer studies and is hence also suitable for students with no previous knowledge in these areas.

#### Introduction to Population Ethics (KSL Number 466304)

Lecturer: Eran Fish, Institute of Philosophy

Some of the most important decisions we need to take, both in our private lives and in public policy, are those that affect who and how many people will live in the future. Population ethics is the study of the philosophical and practical questions that such decisions raise. It concerns, among other things, questions regarding the moral right to bring a child into existence, the optimal size or growth rate for a population, and the duties we owe to future generations. In this course we will read classical and contemporary texts by philosophers, economists and demographers who have influenced the field.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to read and engage with some more advanced literature in the field. The students will also learn to assess the relevant philosophical arguments analytically, and to present their views on the subject clearly and accurately.

#### Law and Economics and its Criticism as a School of Thought for the Understanding of Law (KSL Nr. 466570)

Lecturer: Stefan Schlegel, Faculty of Law

This seminar will provide a critical introduction to law and economics, arguably the most influential approach to legal studies in the late 20th century.

The seminar is explicitly not about the legal regulation of economic activity but about the utility of economic concepts and methods for the analysis of law – private, public, and criminal law alike.

The seminar, therefore, is open to everybody interested in the study of (legal) institutions, namely economists, sociologists, anthropologists, and historians.

The seminar will be based on a weekly reading of a classic paper in (or against) Law and Economics. Every week will be dedicated to one core insight, or one fundamental criticism of the theory. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have an overview of the origins, of the impact, the different schools within, and the major criticism of this approach to legal studies. Students can apply theoretical concepts to current legal challenges and reflect on the limitations of these concepts.

#### Where and when?

##### Scientific Ethics: Case Studies and Consequences:

Date: Start date September 15, 2020

Time: Tuesday 13 – 15h (weekly)

ECTS: 4 Room: B5, EXWI building

Registrations via KSL

Deadline: has not yet been determined

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##### Sports for All?! Participation and Integration in Sports:

Date: Start: September 17 2020

Time: 2.15-4.00 p.m. (weekly)

ECTS: 5

Room: A008, Institute of Sport Science

Registrations via ISPW tool, deadline has not yet been determined

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##### Scientific Ethics: Case Studies and Consequences (KSL Number 466500)

Lecturer: Anna Garry, Thomas Feurer / Institute of Applied Physics

Some scientists try to cheat the system and cause serious damage to the credibility of the scientific community. The British archaeologist Charles Dawson found parts of a human-like skull and jawbone and claimed that they were from a new species, i.e. the "Piltdown Man," which supposedly was the missing link between man and ape. He became very famous. Only 40 years later, Kenneth Oakley dated the skull using new techniques and found that it was 500 years old and not 500,000. Soon after, three scientists confirmed that the skull was an elaborate fraud, a medieval human skull combined with the jawbone of an orangutan and the teeth of a chimpanzee. Thankfully, cheats like Dawson are the exception, but they play an important role in helping us understand the need for a system of scientific ethics, which ensures reliability and correct behavior in science. This lecture course will address several cases, extract patterns and also discuss measures which can be taken to prevent and recognize scientific fraud.

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##### Sports for All?! Participation and Integration in Sports (KSL Number 424093)

Lecturer: Betelihem Alemu, Roman Zehl / Institute of Sport Science

Since the ratification of the European Sport for All Charter in 1975, there were numerous international efforts relating to sports policy with the aim to enable as many social groups as possible to participate in sports. However, a closer consideration casts doubts on the success of present measures relating to sports policy for the integration of different social groups to sport. In fact, social inequalities in sport participation can still be observed. Against this background, the seminar particularly focuses on the following target groups: people with a disability, elderly, people from the LGBTQ+ community, and people with a migration background.

The aim of the seminar is to examine social factors of sport participation as well as integration potentials of sport from different perspectives and for different target groups.