

*Title and Code of Course:* The Sociology of Social Organizations and Institution  
ERPB-BSZOC 9191

*Instructor's Name:* László Pólos

*Instructor's Email Address:* laszlo.polos@durham.ac.uk

Credit Point Value: <b>6</b>	Number of Lessons per Week: <b>2</b>	Type of Course: <b>Seminar</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Lecture</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Method of Evaluation: <b>Oral Examination</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>In-Class Presentation</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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### **Course Description:**

Organizations, Institutions are all over the society and their importance in social life ever increases with modernity. Understanding their functions, the way they operate is a prerequisite of meaningful orientation in contemporary society, purposeful social action. Three related fields of study, in Social Psychology, Sociology and (micro-) Economics are all committed considerable efforts to generate such understanding. This course is committed to deliver two outcomes: A coherent, consistent, and predictive vision of how organizations and institutions work (according to research that delivers reproducible (and reproduced!) results) and a critical journey over the methodological landscape that led to these results, and might inspire even more insights. Mistakes, dead ends as well as successful attempts will be discussed.

The successful founding of organizations requires some level of alignment with their environment, so that the environment makes vital personnel, material and financial resources available to them. However these resources are finite and organizations have to compete for access. This competition leads to the natural selection process across organizations.

The selection process explains the patterned variety across organizations: similar environmental challenges favour similar organizations, what in turn leads to the emergence of organizational forms and populations of organizations. It is of course helpful if no blind experimentation is required, as the appropriate organizational form is established and it is even better if it became institutionalized. So organizations are also competing for taken\_for\_grantedness, i.e. institutional-ization.

In this seminar we discuss the most important insights concerning the evolution of organizations and the social processes that bring about institutionalization, and also the ones that undermine institutional standings.

Themes of the course include:

- (1) What are the organizations and why do they proliferate?
- (2) Where do organizational forms (and populations) come from?
- (3) Social Dynamics and vital rates.
- (4) Legitimation and Competition. Density Dependence and Density Delay.
- (5) Old age misery.
- (6) Integrated theory of Organizational Aging
- (7) Organizational Niche-1 Niche width
- (8) Organizational Niche-2 Niche position Theory of Resource Partitioning
- (9) Organizational Change 1 Change Cascades and Niche Change
- (10) Organizational Change 2 Intricacy, Opacity and Viscosity.
- (11) Organizational Change 3 Organizational Identity, Culture and Asperity.
- (12) Organizational Change 4 Organizational Change and Human Resources.

**Bibliography:**

M.T. Hannan & J. Freeman: 1984 Organization Ecology  
G.R. Carroll & M.T. Hannan: 2000 The Demography of Corporations and Industries  
M.T. Hannan, L. Pólos & G.R. Carroll 2007 Logics of Organization Theory  
Richard Scott: 2017 Organizations and Organizing  
Douglas North 1991 Institutions, Institutional Change and