



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TRENTO

**Handbook** (valid since reform 2022-23)

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MA **Sociology and Social Research** (Classe LM-88)

This master programme (laurea magistrale) prepares students to become **professional social science researchers**, who are able to reflect on society and analyse social problems, to design, conduct and manage social research, to communicate with a wider public and make a valid contribution to contemporary social debates.

Working as a social scientist requires advanced knowledge in the main fields of sociological theory as much as in the methods and techniques needed to carry out research in and on the social world.

The programme enables students to (a) investigate societal issues in contemporary society thereby achieving a **comprehensive understanding of social processes and social phenomena**, and (b) **analyse social dynamics at first hand**, following their own research interests, thanks to advanced theoretical courses as much as courses and seminars on current cutting-edge research methods.

The programme is organized in two intensive years and integrates methods training with substantive research topics of societal and sociological relevance, providing:

- Insight into **contemporary social issues** through courses on substantive topics, and various opportunities for specialization (elective courses, internship, own research experience, seminars);
- In-depth **methodological** training through practical experience, applying theoretical and methodological knowledge (lab sessions, collaboration in small groups, individual research).

The MA programme is aimed at students who **want to make a difference in society**, providing **well-informed** and **scientifically rigorous advice**. The programme provides the basis to pursue a career in private or public institutes. It also offers excellent preparation for continuing your studies with a PhD programme (or similar). About 25% of our Alumni make this choice.



## The programme structure

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2 years, full time  
120 credits  
6 credits per course

### Learning opportunities

The figure above shows the building blocks of the programme, which integrates training with substantive research topics of social and sociological relevance.

During the **intensive two-year programme**, students are exposed to contemporary social issues and obtain in-depth qualitative and quantitative methodological and practical training through:

- Courses on substantive social issues, including contemporary theories;
- Lab sessions and seminars in small groups which facilitate developing skills such as how to conduct interviews, focus groups and statistical analysis;
- Integration of methodological competences with current debates and theoretical insights.

Students have the opportunity to develop a substantive area of expertise through elective courses, internship, thesis topic and various seminars.

Students develop and apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the courses to concrete research topics. In many cases, this involves group work that allows students to look into the details of phenomena of their own interest. Intensive cooperation from the beginning enables the creation of a network of collaboration and friendships with fellow students, already during the first year.



## Building your own skills

The programme structure combines compulsory courses with an ample choice on substantive topics and methods courses. This allows students to **independently construct their own profile**, following their own research interests and acquiring interdisciplinary skills. Also stays abroad and curricular internships are a way to build knowledge outside university rooms, to build networks, and to collect first experience in the labour market.

## Topics

The Programme is particularly strong in the following (not an exhaustive list):

### **Social inequalities and life course:**

labour markets – welfare states – social policies  
social demography – gender equality – family studies – migration and mobility  
education – social mobility – inequality of opportunities

### **Culture and communication:**

cultural sociology – sociology of culture – forms and production of culture  
social interaction – sense making – language and communication  
lifestyle and consumption – sustainability

### **Political participation and public opinion:**

political and social participation – active citizenship – social movements  
public opinion research – values, attitudes, beliefs

## The context

The department hosts a vibrant student community and constitutes an international environment. It has recently been awarded as a **department of excellence** for the second time. Because of the limited number of students admitted, the relatively small size of the classes allows for **direct interaction and close supervision from the professors**. Students can also access a rich calendar of seminars, lectures, presentations, and workshops that creates a dynamic learning environment. Given the department's excellent international connections, it is not uncommon for high-level professors to come and meet with students. Participating in these seminars and workshops provides top-level expertise free of charge and in our city.

Watch our video:





## Examination Methods

Assessment takes place through a mix of examination methods which often involve the production of original research and the presentation of results, enabling students to familiarise themselves with the social research process from the first year of the course. These original pieces of research are carried out individually or in small groups and gradually favour the independence of students. This allows them to develop decision-making and operational autonomy, as well as the ability to collaborate with others. This operational flexibility is crucial in the labour market and is a strength of Sociology and Social Research graduates.

Students also have the opportunity to improve their public speaking skills and presentation skills, by presenting their own work to peers and the broader scientific community.

## International

The master has a strong **international orientation**. Courses are taught in English, and we have an international composition of teachers and students. Students have the opportunity to attend classes taught by internationally-known scholars, to study with colleagues from various parts of the world and develop cross-cultural skills.

Students are provided the opportunity to spend study periods abroad in European and non-European countries. We have double degree agreements with the prestigious universities of: Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain), Tilburg (the Netherlands), Bamberg (Germany), Higher School of Economics National Research University St. Petersburg (Russia), as well as a double degree with the university of Karls-Franzens-Universität Graz (Austria), in the framework of the Cultural Sociology Degree. The offering is supplemented by a vast number of Erasmus+ agreements and bilateral agreements, also outside Europe.



The University management is strongly convinced that an experience in two different institutions can improve students' skills and strengthen their curriculum for an occupational future at a national, European, or international level.

As a further opportunity, the University provides a special scholarship for students spending a period abroad to write their thesis. In this case, students spend a period of up to three months at a foreign university to conduct research and write their dissertation. Motivated students can take this opportunity to work closely with professors and researchers specialised in the field of research within which the thesis is being developed. Such professionals usually act as thesis co-supervisors, enriching the student's CV.

### **Internship**

The curricular internship usually lasts 225 hours (9 CFU) but can possibly be extended up to 250 hours (10 CFU). The Department has stable connections with companies and research institutes also in an international context, but students are encouraged to look for the place of their internship themselves. Motivated students can independently search for companies and research institutes where they can spend a period and build professional relationships outside the university. Students might also opt for an internal internship within a project of a professor from the University of Trento. Also after graduation, students can carry out an internship at research institutes.

The Moodle community of the MA programme also contains a list of possible places.

In the ideal scenario, the internship takes place between the end of the first and the beginning of the second academic year. At this stage, students already possess sufficient technical skills to undertake research activities. An internship at the end of the academic career should be avoided, as it may cause an uncomfortable overlap with the writing of the thesis. Moreover, during the internship, students develop projects that often feed into the dissertation, and also build relationships that later lead to job offers.

### **Language**

Language skills: choose 1 of the options listed below

Course
Seminar "Advanced English "
English language C1
English language C2

To access the seminar "Advanced English", sit the placement test with CLA in advance: you need a B2 level. <https://www.cla.unitn.it/en/540/placement-test>



## Towards graduation

This is a two year programme and you can graduate from June of your second year onwards. Here you find useful information about graduation dates, the rules for the final exam (defense) and some **guidelines** for the dissertation (these are guidelines, not strict rules!).

<https://offertaformativa.unitn.it/en/lm/sociology-and-social-research/graduation>

Before registering for the defense you need to present at the **thesis seminar** (below).

## What comes after

This master course is a two-year programme that provides advanced training for positions of **social researcher in private research** institutes in the field of marketing and communication, customer satisfaction and opinion research, as well as in **public research institutions** (for instance, institutes and foundations involved in education research, or in the analysis of labour market and welfare trends, or in the evaluation of public policies). This master course also provides a strong background for students interested in **doctoral studies** in the field of sociology and social research.

Typical career trajectories of SSR graduates include:

- Social research professionals at public and private social research institutes;
- Public policy analysis and advise, project management;
- Human resources organisation and management;
- PhD or similar.

## Wellbeing

Students enrolling in this Master course will be exposed to an intensive two-year programme including individual and group work that can be demanding, notwithstanding the commitment to course work. The MA programme intends to favour mental and physical well-being, by providing support by peers, professors and the university community at large, but also by professionals (for more information:

<https://www.unitn.it/en/servizi/77068/student-counselling-service>

<https://www.apss.tn.it/Servizi-e-Prestazioni/Assistenza-psicologica#>).

The Trentino region is a particularly favourable context for taking a break from study and daily commitments. The proximity to mountains and lakes, and the quality of public transport makes it very easy to organise small day trips into nature. But watch out for bears!



## Useful information

Get enrolled in the **Moodle Community of the MA programme**:

<https://didatticaonline.unitn.it/dol/course/view.php?id=36724>

Useful information also in the **Guide for students by the Department**:

<https://www.sociologia.unitn.it/111/guida-studenti>

Academic Calendar: <https://www.sociologia.unitn.it/220/calendario-accademico>

Easy Academy for **timetables, rooms, exams**:

<https://easyacademy.unitn.it/AgendaStudentiUnitn/>

Some more general **information** on the offer of the Department (incl. funding for students):

<https://www.sociologia.unitn.it/7/corsi-di-studio>

## Contacts

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<https://offertaformativa.unitn.it/en/lm/sociology-and-social-research>

<https://international.unitn.it/ssr>

Stay tuned: [@ssr\\_unitrento](https://twitter.com/ssr_unitrento)



## Course programme

	Academic Year 1		Academic Year 2	
	Sem. 1	Sem. 2	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
<b>Theory &amp; Sociological topics</b>	Economy and society OR Culture and sociology (6)			
<b>Methods</b>	Quantitative methods (6+3)	Qualitative method (6+3) <small>(annual courses)</small>	Research design (6+3) <small>(annual courses)</small>	
<b>Inter-disciplinary fields</b>	Research methods in history (6)  Academic English (3)	Research methods in political science (6)  Public opinion OR Cultural analytics (6)	Mobility and social transformation (6)	
<b>Sociological specialization</b>		1 x Elective (6)	2 x Elective (6)  2 x Elective/ Free choice (6)	Internship or other (9)  Thesis seminar (3)  <b>Thesis (18)</b>





Course	Hours in class	credits			Sem.	Year
Research design	48	6	SPS/07	Caratterizz ante	1+2	1
Research design lab	24	3	--	Altre attività	1+2	1
<i>at least one of these two, better both:</i>						
Economy and society	48	6	SPS/07	Caratterizz ante	1	1
Culture and society	48	6	SPS/07	Caratterizz ante	1	1
Quantitative methods	48	6	SPS/07	Caratterizz ante	1	1
Quantitative methods lab	24	3	--	Altre attività	1	1
Qualitative methods	48	6	SPS/07	Caratterizz ante	1+2	1
Qualitative methods lab	24	3	--	Altre attività	1+2	1
Research methods in history	48	6	M-STO/04	Caratterizz ante	1	1
Research methods in political science	48	6	SPS/04	Caratterizz ante	2	1
<i>at least one of these two:</i>						
Public opinion research	48	6	SECS-S/05	Caratterizz ante	2	1
Cultural analytics	48	6	SECS-S/05	Caratterizz ante	2	1
Choice (elective course) – see below	48	6	SPS/07-09 SECS-S/04 SECS-P/02	Affine		1 or 2
<i>... one out of these:</i> - Seminar: Advanced <b>English</b> for SSR - Competenze linguistiche – Inglese (C1 or C2)		3	NN	Altre attività	1	1 - -
Mobility and social transformation	48	6	M-DEA/01	Caratterizz ante	1	2
Choice (elective course) – see below	48	6	SPS/07-09 SECS-S/04 SECS-P/02	Affine		2
Choice (elective course) – see below	48	6	SPS/07-09 SECS-S/04 SECS-P/02	Affine		2
Free credits (courses or seminars)		6	NN	Altre attività		1 or 2
Free credits (courses or seminars)		6	NN	Altre attività		1 or 2
Internship or other vocational-oriented activities		9	NN	Altre attività		2
Thesis seminar	24	3	NN	Altre attività		1 & 2



Thesis		18	NN	Altre attività		2
<b>Choice (elective course): at least 3, ideally 5 out of these</b>					sem.	year
Cultural sociology	48	6	SPS/08	Affine	1	1 or 2
Language and society	48	6	SPS/08	Affine	1	1 or 2
Space and culture	48	6	SPS/08	Affine	2	1 or 2
Communication, science and technology	48	6	SPS/07	Affine	2	1 or 2
Digital social data	48	6	SPS/07	Affine	1	1 or 2
Lifestyles and consumption practices	48	6	SPS/07	Affine	1	1 or 2
Sociology of collective action	48	6	SPS/07	Affine	2	1 or 2
Sociology of generations	48	6	SPS/07	Affine		1 or 2
Advanced social network analysis	48	6	SPS/07	Affine	1	1 or 2
Social inequalities and education	48	6	SPS/07	Affine	1	1 or 2
Economic and labour sociology	48	6	SPS/09	Affine	1	1 or 2
Social policies & life-course dynamics	48	6	SPS/07	Affine	1	1 or 2
Social demography	48	6	SECS-S/04	Affine	1	1 or 2
Social stratification and mobility	48	6	SPS/07	Affine	1	1 or 2
Welfare & labour economics	48	6	SECS-P/02	Affine	2	1 or 2



	<b>Description of courses</b>
Research design  Agneessens	<p>Introduces the student to the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed for the empirical study of social phenomena. The aim of the course is to guide the student through the process of conducting social research in its entirety: from identifying a social problem and defining the correct research question, to the choice of research method and sampling strategy, to practical issues with collecting and analysing both qualitative and quantitative data (or choosing the correct existing dataset), to presenting the research results.</p>
Research design lab	<p>The lab sessions provide participants with concrete research experience aimed at the use of particular data collection and analysis techniques discussed in the Research Design course.</p>
Quantitative methods  Scherer	<p>The course trains students in the understanding and use of quantitative methods for the analysis of social science phenomena. It follows a theory guided empirical research approach, introduces the translation of a research question in an empirical research, and the choice of most appropriate data and methods to test theoretically derived hypothesis. Methods will cover multivariate regression analysis, cross-sectional and longitudinal data, measurement issues and comparative research.</p>
Quantitative methods lab	<p>The laboratory will put the concepts and methods in practice, including the use of statistical software.</p>
Qualitative methods  Bassetti	<p>The course provides the knowledge and skills necessary for the analysis of social and cultural phenomena through qualitative methods. These include ethnography, interviews, focus groups, documentary analysis, visual methods, ethnomethodology and interaction analysis. From project design to the building of research tools, from data collection techniques to data analysis and writing, the course offers hands-on experience of qualitative research from start to finish.</p> <p>Students learn to interpret what people say and do —and how they say and do it— in light of broader cultural patterns and societal dynamics. And conversely, they learn to see how Society —social norms, attitudes, values, ideas, and practices— are produced, reproduced and challenged in the diverse worlds and contexts that make up our social and working life. Which conceptions and worldviews are behind a discourse, or an image? What makes a conversation pleasant, an argument convincing, or an advertisement effective? How do we do things together? How do we organise for that? What builds up to a group cohesion? How is conflict managed? And how does social change happen? These are some of the questions students will learn to address.</p>
Qualitative methods lab	<p>Introducing students to the analysis of qualitative data --in particular but not exclusively, interviews and field notes-- through a practical experience and with the support of a software for the analysis of qualitative data (Atlas.ti). Students will work in small groups on the data gathered during and through the Qualitative Methods course.</p>
Economy and Society  Barbieri	<p>The course provides students with knowledge on the major theoretical perspectives in the study of economy and society and their intersection. The course presents and develops the logic of the "internal analysis of system behaviour" that is the macro-micro-macro explanation of social phenomena. Students will familiarize with different socio-economic theories and approaches with specific focus on the institutional perspective to social science research, common to comparative political economy and comparative sociology, and will link this to societal outcomes and individual-level dynamics.</p> <p>Students will get acquainted with theory-driven empirical research on the treated topics, will learn how to define accurately macro and micro concepts and their linkages; obtain an understanding of causal mechanisms of social change; and will learn to critically discuss approaches and results of comparative social science research.</p>



Culture and Society <a href="#">Sciortino</a>	<p>The course offers an overview of the major theoretical traditions and intellectual contributions focusing on the connections between the cultural and the social dimensions of human action and collective life. The student will be introduced - both analytically and historically - to the various ways in which the cultural dimension of social life can be studied within the social sciences. Several exemplar studies will be reviewed to document the emergence of a variety of distinct sociological approaches to culture.</p> <p>By the end of the course, students are expected to: a) be familiar with the main concepts and arguments that define the culture-and-society tradition; b) be able to connect current research with its classical roots and c) be able to read critically work carried out within these traditions and to identify intellectual positions and differences among scholars and research programs.</p>
Public Opinion research <a href="#">Luijkx</a>	<p>The aim of this course is to get students acquainted with opinion research, with particular attention to attitudes and values and their change. The focus lies on the measurement and the analysis of these concepts in different context. During the course students will analyse comparative, representative studies and apply various research methods, including measurement models and multilevel regression analyses.</p> <p>Students will learn how to formulate and answer relevant questions empirically in comparative research. At the end of this course, students will be able to formulate specific research questions and hypotheses, to prepare data to test the hypothesis; and to interpret the results and present them in a report format.</p>
Cultural Analytics <a href="#">Acerbi</a>	<p>The course introduces students to the analysis of culture, its content, social transmission and evolution. The course presents concepts and methods for computational analysis of cultural data drawn from different sources, from digital to analogical. This course prepares students in the social sciences to analyse, interpret, and visualize cultural data—such as novels, movies, tweets, and more—with computational methods. After a basic introduction to R and Python programming languages, we will cover topics such as web scraping and data retrieval, text mining, network analysis, and data visualization. We will survey and discuss how these computational tools are applied in computational social science. We will also reflect on the specific problems, challenges, and ethical dilemmas posed by the computational study of culture. This course is specifically designed for students who have no previous programming background. Students will get acquainted with the analyses of various forms of unstructured data and their meaningful interpretation related to social scientific questions.</p>
Research methods in history <a href="#">Salzberg</a>	<p>The course aims to highlight the long-running dialogue between the social sciences and history, as well as exploring recent trends in historical theory and practice, through discussion of some classic texts of historiography as well as more recent interventions. It also encourages students to consider the benefits and challenges of working with different kinds of historical sources and methodologies, and to reflect on the role of history in public debate and memory.</p>
Research methods in political science <a href="#">Diani</a>	<p>This course introduces the analysis of instances of political processes, ranging from policy networks to social movements by using the basic concepts and methods of social network analysis. More specifically, students a) are introduced to the main theoretical approaches to social network analysis; b) become familiar with the basic techniques for the exploration of social networks; c) develop the ability to apply their knowledge to specific datasets.</p>
Mobility and Social Transformation <a href="#">Gallo</a>	<p>The course provides students with an interdisciplinary knowledge about socio-geographical mobility, by focusing both on international and internal migration. By the end of the course students acquire: a comprehension of the historical development of migration flows across the XXth-XIXth century; the capacity to orient themselves within the theoretical debate about mobility and how the latter produces/reflects broader processes of socio-economic, cultural and political change; knowledge about emerging themes and related empirical research within and beyond Europe; the capacity to assess research methods in relation to specific questions/issues within migration research.</p>
Language - English/academic writing	<p>Students learn to understand complex texts, concrete and abstract, including the more technical discussion of the area of specialization. Students learn to interact fluently with others in English, and to produce clear structured texts and argumentations in a multitude of social science debates. The evaluation of the seminar requires candidates to demonstrate their competence in English (listening, reading, writing and speaking) in a range of academic, personal and professional contexts.</p>



Internship (stage) or other vocational-oriented activities	The internship or other vocationally related activities provides students with the occasion to apply competences and make a first concrete professional experiences. The concrete experience further enriches students' portfolio of competences by specific skills related to the labour market entry process, and the necessary soft and transversal skills. The training offer consists of internships, specific training related to finding a job and specific methods training and laboratories.
Free exams (elective courses)	Free exams complete and integrate the profile of students, leaving room for specialization following specific student's interests.
Credit seminar	Credit seminars provide a tool to integrate the profile of students, leaving room for specialization following specific student's interests. They provide concrete experience on specific substantive topics or methods training.
Thesis seminar	The thesis seminar accompanies students in the preparation of their master thesis, including the choice of the topic, the organization of the work and the presentation of results. Check out the Moodle community of the MA Programme for major details.
Thesis	Design and conduct your own research on a topic of your choice.



alphabetical order	Specializing courses (elective courses; at least 3, up to 5)
Advanced Social Network Analysis <a href="#">Agneessens</a>	This course discusses theories and methods for the analysis of social network data, and illustrates how these methods can help answer specific types of research questions in the social sciences. More specifically, students: a) learn how social network analysis can help answer research questions in areas, such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, epidemiology, criminology, political science, communication science, management, and educational research; b) become familiar with (statistical) methods to explore such social network research questions; c) learn how to apply their knowledge to specific datasets.
Communication, Science and Technology <a href="#">Bucchi</a>	The course aims to develop the competences to use concepts and tools of the social sciences to analyse a) the general transformations of the relationship between technology and communication and b) the specific characteristics of the communication processes of science and technology in contemporary societies
Cultural Sociology <a href="#">Cossu</a>	The course adopts a case-study centred approach to familiarize students to the variety of works carried out in the tradition of cultural sociology analyses within the humanities and the social sciences. The main question is "What do cultural sociologists do?", and the course identifies both convergences and differences in the subfield of cultural sociology, in terms of theory, methods, and the varying centrality of different research questions. The main focus of the course is with issues of cultural description and explanation. By the end of the course, the students are expected to: a) understand the conceptual and methodological strategies that drive relevant work in cultural sociology; b) be able to design basic autonomous research within the cultural sociology perspective; c) to apply a range of methods to answer to specific research questions.
Digital Social Data <a href="#">Bison</a>	The interdisciplinary course of Digital Social Data, offers an introduction to the various approaches that computer scientist, economists and sociologists adopt to approach a highly complex issue as Big data and Open data. The course has a methodological and applied character and introduces to the use of big data. Students will learn notions of programming and data analysis in R, in highly complex contexts. At the end of the course students: a) know how to identify the different methodological approaches in handling Big Data; b) are able to evaluate the main types of analysis that can be conducted on the Big Data; c) apply the main programming tools in R to Big Data; and, d) conduct independently elemental analysis of highly complex data in R.
Economic and Labour Sociology <a href="#">Cutuli</a>	The course presents current debates and the state of the art research in economic and labour market sociology based on the international, comparative literature. The course also provides students with specific competencies for a thorough analysis of post-industrial labour markets, focusing on the main contemporary issues related to labour market changes, such as industrial transformation, north/south divides, gender/ethnic/age/educational discrimination, skill/routinization biased technological change, labour market flexibilisation/dualization, etc. At the end of the course, students are able to master the main concepts and theories of economic and labour sociology and are familiar with empirical research on labour market related issues and have acquired the practical skills to conceptualize and empirically analyse specific issues related to the functioning of contemporary labour markets and related inequalities.
Language and Society <a href="#">Fele</a>	Providing an overview for the observation of social interaction. Discussing the links between the study of communication and social theory. Analysing forms of communication in everyday life. Giving an introduction to the theory behind the study of language and social interaction. Offering a methodological framework for the study of language use in real life.



Lifestyles and Consumption Practices Forno	The course discusses the major social, cultural and economic changes of contemporary societies through the analysis of shifts occurred in consumption patterns and practices. The main objective of this course is to provide an advanced introduction to consumer theory and to the (interdisciplinary) field of consumption studies. The course is divided into three parts: a) an introductory part in which the various theories that have analysed the changes in consumer culture and practices will be presented and discussed; b) a second part concerning the environmental and social consequences of contemporary consumerist society; c) a special part focusing on more specific issues regarding the relationship between consumer behaviour and sustainability. Within this last part, particular attention is paid to the debate on the consequences of consumerism and on those grassroots organizations that express a critical view of the "consumer society".
Social Demography Vitali	This course provides an overview of concepts, methods and current debates in demography. The course is divided in two parts: the first part introduces substantive concepts, measures and models of demography. The second part requires a 'hands-on' approach, encompassing: 1) Class discussions on demography-related topics currently in the public debate (i.e. new family forms, fertility, population ageing and migration); 2) Workshops aimed at familiarizing with existing sources of publicly available population data (e.g. from United Nations, World Bank etc.); 3) 'How-to-read-quantitative-research' workshops designed to help students interpret results from published research using advanced quantitative methods typically used in demography (e.g. regression models with interaction between variables, event-history models). Upon completion of this course, students are able to: Describe patterns of demographic change and population prospects around the world; Retrieve, analyse and interpret demographic data; Compare and contrast theories of demographic change; Critically evaluate the consequences of demographic change for societies and social policy.
Social Inequalities and Education Various Instructors	The course provides students with basic and more advanced conceptual tools for the analysis of educational systems, inequalities of educational opportunities and labour market returns to education. At the end of the course, on the theoretical side, students are able to 1) recall the main institutional and organizational features of educational systems and their changes over time; 2) identify the various forms of social inequality in education and their changes over time; 3) compare different theories on the reproduction of social inequalities in education; 4) critically discuss theories about the occupational returns to education; 5) describe the main international educational data sources and analytical strategies to analyse them, their advantages and limitations. Students also acquire the basic methodological skills needed to conduct an original theory-driven quantitative empirical research on education and social inequalities.
Social Policies & Life-course Dynamics Grotti	The course introduces to social policies and their link to social inequality dynamics in contemporary societies. It presents the analysis of actual social policies in various thematic areas (family, care, health, poverty, social exclusion ...) and their impact on individuals' (and households) lives in different institutional contexts. By the end of the course, students have detailed knowledge about specific social policies and their impacts and understand the principles and theories of life-course analysis. Students are able to reflect critically on the implications of policy changes and set up the design for the evaluation of the effects of social policies.
Social Stratification and Mobility Schizzerotto	The course presents the main contemporary contributions to stratification and social mobility research. Particular attention – also from a theoretical perspective - is dedicated to various class schemes employed to represent the social inequality structure of contemporary societies. Further, the processes of social reproduction and social mobility is examined, as well as the factors on which they depend on and their variation across historical time and countries.



<p>Sociology of Collective Action Pilati</p>	<p>This course aims at developing students' ability to analyse complex social processes and dynamics of contemporary collective actions in light of alternative paradigms. More specifically, students a) become familiar with the basic tenets of the dominant theoretical models for the study of collective action; b) develop the ability to assess strengths and weaknesses of each approach; c) develop the ability to apply concepts and theoretical models to the explanation/interpretation of specific dynamics of collective actions; d) strengthen their ability to link the theories with the empirical research through the discussion of several studies based on the use of diverse techniques and methods including protest-event-analysis (PEA), social network analysis (SNA), protest survey method, qualitative analyses.</p>
<p>Sociology of Generations To be re-activated</p>	<p>This course introduces concepts and methods of the analysis of social and societal change specifically analysed in diachronically applying longitudinal approaches such as the individual, the cohort-based and the historical time perspectives. Based on classical contributions the course approaches social change through transformations of generations. More specifically, students a) are introduced to the rationale of longitudinal research and the related socio-economic literature b) discuss the main approached of longitudinal research both at the micro (individual and household) level and at the macro (contextual and structural) level c) develop the ability to apply their knowledge in the analysis and critical understanding of the literature and in the autonomous definition of specific research questions and research contributions</p>
<p>Space and Culture Brighenti</p>	<p>The course aims to offer an introduction to the main concepts, theories and topics in social theory concerning socio-spatial phenomena, the study of the city and urban cultures. The course is divided into three parts: in the first part, we discuss the literature, theories and fresh research, in the second, we design a series of small research exercises and reflect on the suitable methods to conduct them, in the third, we carry out the exercises, presenting and discussing them in class, so as to increase methodological reflexivity and generate substantive insights.</p>
<p>Welfare &amp; Labour Economics Piccoli</p>	<p>The goal of the course is to endow students with the essential toolbox to understand foundations of labour economics, including: search theory, supply and demand of labour, market equilibrium, matching theories, discrimination, work in households, and so on. This knowledge is used to analyse more deeply topics related to welfare analysis, such as, poverty and inequality, the equity-efficiency trade-off, the maximization of social welfare and the optimal income taxation.</p>