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**OŚRODEK
KULTURY
FRANCUSKIEJ**



EQUAL BEFORE THE STATE?

**CRITICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH OF PUBLIC POLICIES AND PUBLIC ACTION
French-Polish Conference**

Organized by

Center for French Cultural Studies, University of Warsaw ([OKF UW](#))

Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw ([IS UW](#))

Robert Zajonc Institute for Social Studies, University of Warsaw ([ISS UW](#))

Conference date: 20th September 2019 (Friday)

Conference venue: University of Warsaw, ul. Dobra 55, room 3.014.

Organising comitee:

Valentin Behr (Université libre de Bruxelles, OKF UW,ISS UW)

Nicolas Maslowski (OKF UW)

Karolina Sztandar-Sztanderska (IS UW)

Tomasz Zarycki (ISS UW)

Media parter: [Kultura i Rozwój](#)

Registration required at email address: iss@uw.edu.pl or at Facebook conference webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2286240878306071/>

Deadline: 15th September (limited number of places)

PROGRAMME

9:20-9:40 **Registration**

9:40 -10:00 **Opening:** Nicolas Maslowski (Center for French Cultural Studies UW), Renata Włoch (IS UW), Karolina Sztandar-Sztanderska (IS UW) and Tomasz Zarycki (ISS UW)

10:00 – 11:00 **Keynote: Vincent Dubois** (Université de Strasbourg) Bringing critical sociology to street-level bureaucracy theory, chairperson: Karolina Sztandar-Sztanderska (IS UW)

11:00-11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15-13:15 **Panel 1** chairperson: Valentin Behr (Université libre de Bruxelles, OKF & ISS UW)

Pierre-Édouard Weill (Université de Bretagne Occidentale - Lab-LEX) Inequalities in access to social rights among the lower classes: the case of French public housing

Magdalena Rek-Woźniak (Institute of Sociology, University of Łódź), Large-scale development projects as public controversies in a post-industrial city. The case of Łódź, Poland

Przemysław Sadura (IS UW) School Wars. The State & Social Classes in Reforming Educational System in Poland

13:15-14:15 **Lunch break**

14:15-16:15 **Panel 2** chairperson: Vincent Dubois (University of Strasbourg)

Karolina Sztandar-Sztanderska & Marianna Zieleńska (IS UW) From discretion around law to discretion around IT in a reformed welfare state

Alexis Spire (CNRS) Discretionary power as a political weapon against foreigners

Kaja Skowrońska (Université de Nantes) Emotion at the heart of Poland's migration policies, past and present. A view from the front desk of immigration services

16:15-16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30-16:50 **General discussion** chairperson: Tomasz Zarycki (ISS UW)

16:50-18:45 **PhD workshop** chairperson: Nicolas Maslowski (Center for French Cultural Studies UW)

Alicja Pałęcka (IS UW) How to study the experiences of the unemployed: options and questions, discussant: **Vincent Dubois** (Université de Strasbourg).

Mateusz Trochymiak (IS UW) How to become "empowered"? Shaping the citizen by the street-level bureaucrats, discussant: **Alexis Spire** (CNRS).

Dominika Michalak (Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Science), Interests and representations of migrants in the process of stay legalization in Poland, discussant: Pierre-Édouard Weill (Université de Bretagne Occidentale - Lab-LEX).

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

The aim of the conference is to continue discussion between Polish and French researchers, initiated by a publication of a special issue of *Kultura i rozwój* on ethnographic research of public policies targeted at marginalized groups (Sztandar-Sztanderska, 2018). In the longer-term perspective, our aim is to lay foundations for Polish-French cooperation in the area of **critical social research of public policies and public action**. The emphasis will be placed on **daily interactive practices of street-level staff with people applying for public services** (e.g. Lipsky, 2010; Brodtkin, 2015) as well as on **their broader implications for social structure and political order**. While there is a number of French studies exploring relationships between policy in practice and social positions of staff of public institutions and those of service users (for an introduction see: Vincent Dubois, 2013; Sztandar-Sztanderska, forthcoming), both subjects have so far received little scholarly attention from Polish researchers, though the interest in them has been recently growing (Niesporek, Trembaczowski, & Warczok, 2013; Sztandar-Sztanderska, 2015, 2016, 2017; Sztandar-Sztanderska & Zieleńska, 2018; Sadura, 2017; Rek-Woźniak, 2016; Skowrońska, 2017; Kaźmierczak & Rymśa, 2017; Theiss, 2018; Trochymiak, 2018).

The conference will create opportunity for Polish scholars to meet and to discuss with **French sociologists and political scientists prominent in this research field**, namely **Vincent Dubois** (2019, 2010, 2009, 2017; Dubois, Paris, & Weill, 2018), **Alexis Spire** (2019, 2005, 2008, 2012), **Mathilde Darley** (2013, 2016, 2018) and **Pierre-Edouard Weill** (2017; Barrault & Weill, 2018). The exchanges might relate to results of ongoing research projects as well as to broader conceptual and methodological questions, such as the role of critical research for public policies or the possibility to apply analytical frameworks and to use insights from studies conducted in one (institutional) context to another. Rather than to limit ourselves to one policy area, we would like to open up discussions that go beyond narrowly defined policy sectors and target groups. Therefore, presentations will concern various target groups and policy fields, such as for instance, housing, judicial system, education, immigration, development, welfare and labour market policies.

Conference topics will include:

- street level bureaucracies and street-level organisations (e.g. organisational conditions of administrative work, daily practices of policy accomplishment, application of law, discretionary power of frontline staff, classification practices and people-processing tools, administrative burdens);
- recent changes in public policies that affect encounters of public servants with populations (e.g. new public management, professionalisation and de-professionalisation, information technologies, screen- and system-level bureaucracy, surveillance technologies);
- social and professional backgrounds of frontline staff and service users (e.g. social and professional trajectories, biographical experiences, different styles of policy work, social classes, gender issues);
- broader implications of policy practice for social structure and political order (e.g. differentiated access to services, reproduction of inequalities, discrimination, non- take up, everyday functioning of policies towards marginalized groups);

- conceptual and methodological issues (e.g. advantages and limits of ethnographic methods of analysis, the role of critical research, the applicability of conceptual frameworks and insights from one context of study to another).

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