Self in Modern World

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Course description and objectives

People are generally interested in many different things, but for Social Scientists, probably, most fascinating one still remains the ways that we approach ourselves.

In this course, we discuss the genesis, structure and functions of self to understand how individuals perceive and introduce themselves in different social settings. Course utilizes multidisciplinary approaches through the introduction of different modern research trends to deliver fundamental knowledge of social self. More specifically, the course provides BA students with the understanding of the core theoretical models of selfhood highlighting problems of self, and assesses its cognitive, emotional, behavioural, and social dimensions. Within the course, the students will be given opportunities to discuss concepts, theories and methods of self-related issues, helping them to elaborate a structural knowledge of the above subjects.

With the completion of this course, the students are expected to have a solid understanding of the concepts of self and an ability to analyse self-related issues in different contexts.

Course Content

**Week 1: What is a self: Historical overview; Visualisation of self: self-reflection via portraits**


**Week 2-3-4: Self-knowledge: where it comes from. How we generate knowledge about ourselves**


Week 5: Self-schemas: Self-Schemas and Their Malleability


Week 6: Self concept and Self esteem


Terror management theory (Rosenblatt, Greenberg, Solomon, Pyszczynski & Lyon, 1989)


Week 7: Self-knowledge vs. self-awareness: “I think, therefor I am” vs “I dont think, therefore I am” (Jean Cocteau)

- Gergen K, The Saturated Self: Dilemmas of identity in Contemporary life, Basic books, 199

Week 8: Self-awareness: Symbolic interactionism

Week 9: Self-presentation


Week 10: Self-Control: Escaping the self


Week 10. Self and identity: distinctions and interrelation


Week 11: Many selves and multiple identities.

- Kashima, Yoshihisa, Margaret Foddy and Michael Platow, eds. *Self and Identity: Personal, Social, and Symbolic.*

Week 12: stigma, self and identity


Week 13: Neuroscience: Mental representation of the Self

- Stanley B. Klein, Keith Rozendal, Leda Cosmides “A Social-Cognitive Neuroscience Analysis Of
The Self” Social Cognition April, Vol. 20, No. 2: 105–135.B.


**Week 14: Media, Self and Society: How media is influencing on how we see, perceive and believe things in social world.**

- Kashima, Yoshihisa, Margaret Foddy and Michael Platow, eds. *Self and Identity: Personal, Social, and Symbolic.*

**Week 15: Identity in narratives**