

## Call for Applications: Lucerne Master Class for PhD Students 2021

When: April 26<sup>th</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Where: University of Lucerne, Switzerland | Hotel Seeburg  
Language: English  
Closing Date Application: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### Prof. Dr. Marion Fourcade

Professor of Sociology at the University of California Berkeley

## On the Political Economy of Digitality

#### The Scholar

MARION FOURCADE is a Professor of Sociology and Director of Social Science Matrix at UC Berkeley. She grew up and studied in France, received her Ph.D. from Harvard University (2000), and taught at New York University and Princeton University before joining the Berkeley sociology department in 2003. Fourcade is also an Associate Fellow of the Max Planck-Sciences Po Center on Coping with Instability in Market Societies. A comparative sociologist by training and taste, she is interested in variations in economic and political knowledge and practice across nations. Her first book, *Economists and Societies* (2009), explored the distinctive character of the discipline and profession of economics in three countries. With Kieran Healy, she is working on a second book –titled *The Ordinal Society*– that investigates new forms of social stratification and morality in the digital economy.

#### The Topic:

The deployment of algorithms –computer code paired with massive datasets– has reshaped the basic rules of social life: how people communicate, exchange and associate; how they relate to each other, themselves and the world around them, down to the most ordinary and intimate aspects; how institutions, both public and private, think about and pursue their social mission and economic purpose; and how they sort and slot populations and individuals accordingly.

This Lucerne Master Class will analyze the political economy of digital capitalism, paying attention to continuities and ruptures with antecedent forms of capital accumulation. It will revisit classical questions of social scientific theory –including the search for economic profit, the production of social formations and inequalities, and the nature of politics and government– in light of specific implementations of digital technologies across a range of domains and geographical settings.

#### The Class

The class will begin on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1 p.m. and end on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1 p.m. The daily schedule will be from 9.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. and on one evening (lecture & dinner) from 6 – 9 p.m. One of the afternoons will be devoted to a joint excursion in the Lucerne

area. Participants will discuss Marion Fourcade's recent work but also present and discuss their own projects.

### Participants

The Master Class addresses doctoral students from sociology, cultural studies, philosophy, psychology, and economics as well as other fields from within the humanities and social sciences. Applications from international and EU doctoral students and doctoral students from Switzerland are welcome.

### Costs

Tuition fee: 350 CHF

The organizing body of the Master Class, the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSL) at the University of Lucerne, will cover catering and accommodation expenses. The GSL will also reimburse parts of participants' travel expenses in proportion to the distance they are traveling (for details please send an e-mail to [christina.cavedon@unilu.ch](mailto:christina.cavedon@unilu.ch) [managing director GSL]). Applicants mustering financial support from their home institution is greatly appreciated.

### What Former Participants Say

*The Lucerne Master Class is a unique forum focused on culture and markets, attracting scholars from political philosophy, anthropology, and sociology. It is a wonderful opportunity for an intense, focused discussion, and to gain insight into not only what a leading thinker thinks, but how he or she does so.*  
(Sophie Moullin, Princeton University, Department of Sociology)

*The Lucerne Master Class 2019 was an excellently organized event. In addition to intensive discussions, the program left enough time for informal conversations and to enjoy the beautiful scenery.*  
(Judith Sieber, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Graduiertenkolleg "Kulturen der Kritik")

*The 2019 Lucerne Master Class gave its participants a unique and intense insight into a great scholar's intellectual life. It was a perfect occasion to share and challenge one's own practice, to connect with colleagues from different academic backgrounds and to spend a pleasurable time in a beautiful city.*  
(Laura Strack, Joint PhD Palermo / Düsseldorf, European Cultural Studies)

### Applications

Send your application by **December 1<sup>st</sup>** to the following email-address: [christina.cavedon@unilu.ch](mailto:christina.cavedon@unilu.ch)

Please provide a short statement of motivation (no more than one page), a CV and a short description (no more than one page) of your current dissertation project. Postdocs may be admitted on the basis of individual decision.

*Please note that at any time changes might have to be introduced to the Lucerne Master Class due to measures related to the Covid-19 health crisis. In addition, please monitor restrictions posed on entering and leaving Switzerland in response to Covid-19.*

Further information: [www.unilu.ch/masterclass](http://www.unilu.ch/masterclass)

### Support

The Master Class is supported by the Mercator Foundation Switzerland.

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