Philosophy of Social Physics

Fact Sheet

Project Information

SOPHY
Grant agreement ID: 101107061

Funded under
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

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2 October 2023

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1 October 2025

Total cost
€ 0,00

EU contribution
€ 195 914,88

Coordinated by
ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES
France

Objective

""Philosophy of Social Physics"" (SOPHY) intends to explore the impact of physics on the genesis of the social sciences and to define the current use of “Social Physics” in the scientific discourse on big data related to crowd behaviors. The general hypothesis is that physical narratives and notions such as force, resistance, balance, and average have played a crucial role in shaping the concepts we use to think of society since the rise of the Sociological thought in the 19th century, and that in reconstructing the genealogy of the social sciences, the reference to natural sciences cannot be limited to the biological framework.

The goal is to provide new insights into the conceptual paradigms that have been underpinning democratic governance in modern and contemporary societies, thus raising awareness about the rationale of increasingly data-based patterns in social
policies. The ""Social Physics"" paradigm has not yet been analysed in depth through a political-philosophical perspective capable of showing the internal logic and history of the concepts employed. Additionally, an analysis of the links between physics-related notions and political and social concepts in the 19th century is still to be outlined. Moreover, there is still no historical, conceptual, and philosophical-political study focusing on the origins of social physics as it is understood and structured today.

SOPHY will use a methodology resulting from an original combination of the tradition of Begriffsgeschichte, Foucauldian discourse analysis, Historical Epistemology and History of social concepts. This methodology will allow to analyse the historical semantics of concepts emphasizing their contingency and their cultural and social constructed nature, while defining at the same time the epistemic structure in which they are produced and used."

### Fields of science

- **humanities** > **philosophy, ethics and religion** > **philosophy** > **epistemology**
- **social sciences** > **sociology** > **governance**
- **humanities** > **history and archaeology** > **history**
- **natural sciences** > **computer and information sciences** > **data science** > **big data**

### Keywords

- Social Physics
- Quetelet
- Saint-Simon
- Comte
- Sociological Thought
- Conceptual History
- Begriffsgeschichte
- Physics
- Society
- Data Governance

### Programme(s)

- **HORIZON.1.2 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)**
- **MAIN PROGRAMME**

### Topic(s)

- **HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01 - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2022**

### Call for proposal
Funding Scheme

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-EF - HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships

Coordinator

ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES

Net EU contribution
€ 195 914,88

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Links
Contact the organisation
Participation in EU R&I programmes
HORIZON collaboration network

Other funding
€ 0,00

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