

	Doc. dr hab. Robert Pilat	
SEMINAR:	REPRESENTATION OF THE FUTURE AND FUTURE ORIENTED BEHAVIOUR	
	fall and spring semester	
NO. OF HOURS:		tutorial
FREQUENCY:		individual appointments
CREDITS:		
LANGUAGE:		Polish or English

The GSSR has introduced a new form of co-operation between the lecturers and PhD. students as well as among the students. The idea is to offer an individual tutorial to PhD. students, who will express wish to participate in a focused research projects. Such projects might be so designed, that it would be possible to present them as applications for research grants from the Ministry of Science. Should such grants be obtained the projects would typically result in a monograph about the topic at hand. The co-operation with PhD. students may take several forms; basically it will consist in individual tutorials aimed at helping the students to work on their parts of the project. At crucial points there will also be meetings of the whole group. The frequency of the tutorials and meetings may vary according to the stage of the work, but the individual tutorials should take place approximately once in two weeks.

For the academic year 2009-2010 I have outlined a project aimed at studying different forms of **representing the future, orienting oneself towards the future and acting for the future (prospective behaviour)**. The project has arisen from my previous study on redressing wrong, forgiving, and reconciliation. All these phenomena involve and presuppose certain attitudes toward the future like promise, hope, anticipation, expectation, estimation of probability, estimation of risk, planing, predicting, desiring, openness to future goods, etc. These attitudes are based on certain representations of the future. There is room for different kinds of research within this domain. Philosophical, psychological and sociological approaches are obviously pertinent, but there are also interesting problems for game and risk theory as well as for economy, business studies and political science. All these disciplines cope with some problems related to representation of the future. For example: (1) in metaphysics there is a problem of the mode of existence of the future (dispositions, potentialities, possibilities); (2) in social and political science there is a problem of novelty or renewing of political life by establishing a new departure point; (3) in psychology there is a problem of perceiving the future as an important dimension of ones life - also the ability to anticipate, foresee and plan; there is, for instance, a large body of research on prospective memory; (4) in economy and management there is a problem of risk taking and predictions; (5) in philosophical anthropology there is a problem of the source and structure of hopes, desires, risk taking, openness to the future and expectations; (6) in ethics there is a problem of responsibility and acting for future good; (7) in epistemology there are problems of anticipation, prediction, extrapolation and temporal span of the present experience; (8) in cultural studies there is a problem of representing future in different kinds of discourses and texts including autobiographies and diaries.

This list will most probably grow as the research goes on. So far I have only scratched the surface in a couple of minor studies. But I am eager to put together a more ambitious project and I want to invite all interested Ph. D. students to participate. I have noticed that some of the Ph. D. students are already tackling related problems. Sharing experience and co-operation may eventually lead to interesting results. The group cannot be too large (2-5 persons) so that the final results can be presented in consistent form.