



L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), or School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences, was founded in 1947 by Lucien Febvre, Charles Morazé and Fernand Braudel, prominent historians who sought to renew their discipline through greater dialogue with the social sciences. Their interdisciplinary vision remains to this day central to the school.

EHESS trains students in all disciplines of the human and social sciences: history, anthropology, sociology, economics, geography, linguistics, psychology, political science, philosophy and mathematics.

It takes a unique hands-on approach to research training: students directly experience professional research by working alongside scholars who provide insight into the research process. Seminars form the primary locus of research and training. Closely linked to EHESS's research programs and publishing activities, they are animated by the same interdisciplinary spirit combining diverse domains and methodologies.

This multi-dimensional approach is complemented by an emphasis on widening the social sciences' geographical scope. EHESS's cross-disciplinary research groups cover all regions of the world: the Indian subcontinent, East and Southeast Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean, the Ottoman World, Russia and the Caucasus, Germanic societies, and the Americas.

EHESS is also committed to promoting dialogue with other sciences, as well as with the domains of literary and artistic creation.

EHESS's activities are organized into different research centres, more than thirty of which are run in collaboration with the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS). They constitute the intellectual core for doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers at EHESS.

With over 700 teachers and researchers, 450 engineers and technicians, 3,000 enrolled students, and a budget of 40 million euros, EHESS is an institution of international import. It maintains links with a broad network of universities around the world. Every year, 200 visiting professors are invited to contribute to the school's activities, and over half of the student body comes from outside of France. The infrastructure available and resources for doctoral and post-doctoral students in addition to the number of works published by its staff make EHESS one of the main European hubs for research in the social sciences.

The Éditions de l'EHESS, the school's publishing wing, disseminates innovative international research in the social sciences to the wider academic community and the general public across original and scientifically rigorous works that further our understanding of the contemporary world.



■ Cultural Knowledge and Practice



The renewal and evolution of the social sciences is closely linked to the study of cultural products, whether textual, iconic, or musical. Philology and textual critique are particularly central to the study of human societies, which are first and foremost linguistic societies. The study of texts and their successive interpretations occupies a key place in both the seminars EHESS offers and the intellectual debates it fosters. The cultural expressions of collective and individual life call for a contextualization that links them to their social environments and their materiality. Our disciplines encourage an interpretation of historical events and their traces that takes together their production and reception. This approach firmly situates literary studies in the social sciences and explains the presence of a wide range of literary traditions at EHESS, in dialogue with one another: Classical Greece, Christian Byzantium, Islamic erudition, medieval scholasticism, and non-Western philosophical traditions as well as contemporary literature and literary controversies, cinema, television, the plastic arts, and musical creation.

As a result of their spirit of reflexivity and self-critique, the social sciences have long abandoned the illusion that they may remain closed in on themselves and have come to embrace influences stemming from both artistic practices and the exact sciences. Research conducted at EHESS on the production of knowledge brings together specialists from such diverse fields as the history of science and technology, the historical anthropology of health and the body, the study of space and its representations, and mathematics. At EHESS, scholars are united by a shared interest in the formation of knowledge, in addition to its circulation between social groups and cultural spheres across as well as not only Western societies but all regions of the world.



■ Norms, Beliefs, and Decision Making

For a long time, the social sciences opposed the empirical description of social organization to legal norms. Regularities observed in social organizations were preferred to the normative logic of legal systems. This position was linked to efforts to renew the outdated paradigm of institutional history that had once been dominant. Today, EHESS plays a key role in integrating the field of legal studies into the social sciences. Mindful of its full anthropological range, our researchers regard law as a positive system, which provides a framework for expressing and ordering both the mechanisms governing and accidents marking life in society. Deconstructing the long-standing opposition between norms and practices, they study political institutions as social phenomena and launch ambitious inquiries into overarching themes such as the long-term evolution of sovereign states; the consequences of great modern constitutional



choices; the emergence of the individual as a subject of the political order; the separation of public and private norms; contemporary forms of political representation; and the mechanics of decision-making.

Institutions of collective life, however, are not only the product of legal norms. A range of other sources is at work in the mobilization of individuals and the emergence of communities. Religious beliefs play an essential role and can only be understood in conjunction with the formal logic of normative systems and the dynamics of politicization within society. EHESS proposes just such a multidimensional approach to the religious for the dominant monotheistic religions alongside other belief systems, such as Hinduism and Buddhism. The aim is to give students the opportunity to fully grasp the religious realm in all its complexity, integrating within a single paradigm the analysis of phenomena such as the dynamic of secularization and the role of emotions in both their individual and collective forms of expression.



■ Populations, Societies, and Environments



At EHESS, research on the societies of the world brings together methods and intellectual traditions stemming from anthropology, sociology, history, geography, demographic studies, and economics, all through the pursuit of overarching lines of inquiry. Such is the case with inquiry into the social uses of memory and the interplay between tradition and political movements in the production and maintenance of collective identities. Self-genealogy, a practice in which all societies engage, leads to the creation of institutions that define the place and dignity of both groups and individuals in terms of socio-economic status, gender, the conceptualization of origins, and the symbolic representation of the natural order.

This interdisciplinary perspective is a particularly effective tool for deepening our understanding of the contemporary world. It allows us to both reconsider classical questions within the human sciences and

respond to questions concerning current evolutionary trends within our societies. One example is the research on the forms and status of industrial practices and work patterns which now links those issues to developments in health care, transformations in the representation of the stages of life, and the changing relationship of societies to their natural environments. Our programs actively pursue the study of the accelerated urbanization of humanity, without abandoning research on the rural and agricultural world at a time dominated by concern over the continuing ability of the human race to feed its ever growing population. The tensions these studies bring to light also require us to engage with the question of violence and conflict in society, which remains at the heart of all sociological interrogation.

■ Rationalities, Regulations, and Cognition

EHESS aims to create the conditions for the reciprocal enrichment of the social sciences and the formal and quantitative sciences. The development of sophisticated statistical methods for demographic studies, economic history, and quantitative sociology, alongside cartographic methods of calculation, are central to its research policy. All fields of study within the social sciences require the modeling of complex systems in order to frame the analysis of both macroscopic variations and microscopic singularities for all types of social phenomena. Modeling also reveals patterns of reasoning that often unconsciously inform field work and its analysis. At the same time, mathematicians at EHESS are engaged in programs involving the historical study of the sciences and mathematics.

Research in economics is one of EHESS's major strengths. It has been the



driving force behind the foundation of two institutions, the École d'économie de Toulouse (Toulouse School of Economics) and the École d'économie de Paris (Paris School of Economics), in partnership with other research institutions. Research in econometrics at EHESS takes place within an academic forum in which experimental psychology and the philosophy of economics are also actively engaged and which fosters research in the sociology and history of the economies of Western society as well as those of Asia, particularly Japan and China. In addition, the application of formal and quantitative methods fosters innovation in the economics of conventions, going beyond topics of production, exchange and finance in order to explore issues such as social mobility, public health strategies and academic achievement.

The philosophy of mind and cognitive science are also actively pursued at EHESS, in close relation with the renewed study of linguistics. Analysis of forms of perception and of the projection of agents engaged in social interaction also calls upon such disciplines as the philosophy of language and the psychology of cognition.





EHESS is actively invested in the innovative, multi-institution Condorcet Campus project to build the largest research campus in the social sciences in France. Commanding extensive documentary resources, it will offer exceptional working conditions for 12,000 students and 3,000 researchers while also contributing to the redevelopment of north-eastern Paris. This project will allow EHESS to both preserve its unique institutional identity at the heart of the capital and benefit from the combined resources resulting from the construction of an international network for research collaboration. EHESS will be thus in a position to welcome students, teachers and researchers from around the world in an ideal setting for intellectual exchange. Easily accessible by metro, the Condorcet Campus will bring EHESS together with the École pratique des hautes études, the Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, the Centre national de la recherche scientifique, the École nationale des Chartes, the Institut national d'études démographiques, the Université de Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis, the Université de Paris 13 Nord and the Maison des sciences de l'homme.

Institutional cooperation is one of EHESS's strengths in a rapidly-changing academic world. The school is one of the main founders of the new umbrella structure HESAM (Hautes études-Sorbonne-Arts et Métiers), which partners thirteen institutions of higher education and research. HESAM is unique in offering tuition across the spectrum of the social and human sciences, engineering, management, creation, and innovation. It also places fundamental research and critical reflection at the heart of an educational program of continuing education. HESAM includes EHESS, Arts et Métiers Paris Tech, the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers, the École française d'Extrême-Orient, the École nationale des chartes, the École pratique des hautes études, the École supérieure de commerce de Paris Europe, the École nationale supérieure de création industrielle – Les Ateliers, the Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, the École nationale d'administration, the Institut national d'histoire de l'art, the Institut national du patrimoine and the Maison des sciences de l'homme.



■ Study Programs and Contact Information

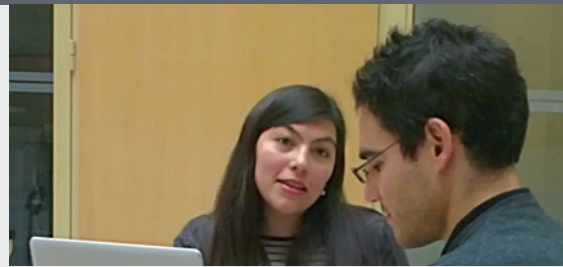
L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales awards three diplomas and caters to the wider public through its programs.

– Tuition at EHESS is structured around the doctoral program. Doctoral studies are conceived as a process of apprenticeship into the world of professional research in the human and social sciences. EHESS also encourages the undertaking of joint PhDs with other non-French institutions of higher education.

– The master's program requires two years of study involving an interdisciplinary combination of courses and individual research, and prepares students for doctoral studies.

– EHESS also awards its own *diplôme de l'EHESS*, allowing candidates without prior university experience to pursue research training in consultation with a research supervisor. It offers students the possibility of giving scholarly form to a personal project and may also lead to study at the master's and doctoral level.

Seminars at EHESS are also open to the public. Individuals may enroll as non-degree students and use the extensive



resources offered through the EHESS's electronic platform.

The Cercles de formation program encourages the wider circulation of the findings of research staff based at EHESS across a variety of forms: evening lecture series, professional training programs, and conference organized at the request of public, business, or civil institutions.

Enrollment forms, course descriptions, and activities hosted by the Cercles de formation are accessible online at the following address: www.ehess.fr.

The headquarters of EHESS are currently located at 190-198 avenue de France, 75013 Paris. In addition to its Paris campuses, EHESS has sites in Lyon, Marseille, and Toulouse. The majority of its seminars are held at 96 and 105 boulevard Raspail, 75006 Paris.

