COURSE DETAIL

FINANCIALIZATION AND THE SOCIOLOGY OF FINANCE
Country Denmark
Host Institution University of Copenhagen
Program(s) University of Copenhagen
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Economics
UCEAP Course Number 123
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title FINANCIALIZATION AND THE SOCIOLOGY OF FINANCE
UCEAP Transcript Title FINANCIALIZATION
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course address how the economy works and how it affects individuals and society by focusing on a critically important domain of the economy—namely, financial markets. Overall, the course provides a sociological understanding of why we have financial markets, who the key financial actors are, how financial markets are evolving, as well as how finance and financial logics affect individuals and society. More specifically, it introduces recent sociological discussions of two aspects of finance. The first concerns “financialization,” that is, the growing use and importance of financial logics in otherwise non-financial fields. One example of this is when production companies generate more revenue from finance operations than from their core production activities. Another dimension of financialization relates to the everyday life of ordinary citizens who are increasingly embedded in financial logics. For example, the course discusses inequalities pertaining to the ability to obtain loans (credit). The second aspect of the course focuses on the inner workings of contemporary financial markets. In addition to discussing the backdrop to the 2008 financial crisis, particular emphasis is given to understanding how financial markets have transformed in light of automated trading, that is, fully automated algorithms acting in markets without direct human involvement. It covers the main elements in present-day markets, including trading firms, financial exchanges, so-called dark pools, and financial regulation, as well as discusses the kinds of financial crashes automated trading might give rise to. The course draws upon a combination of classical sociological analyses and theories of financial markets (from Max Weber to Wayne Baker); more recent sociological discussions of performativity in markets; financialization literature; and social studies of science-inspired analyses of automation.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ASOA22101U

Host Institution Course Title

FINANCIALIZATION AND THE SOCIOLOGY OF FINANCE

Host Institution Course Details
https://kurser.ku.dk/course/asoa22101u/2024-2025

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Social Sciences

Host Institution Degree
Bachelor

Host Institution Department
Sociology

Course Last Reviewed
2024-2025

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