Sociology of the Social – The Invention of Society
Edda Mack
Mondays, 12.00-1.30 pm
Kap-010

Summary of the course:
The course follows the Module “Basics of Sociological Theory” (Grundzüge soziologischer Theorien). In “Basics of Sociological Theory” students dealt with three schools of sociological thought: the Sociology of the Social, Critical Theory and the Sociology of Association, which was first introduced by Bruno Latour.
This course is part of the module “Key Aspects of Sociological Theory” and is going to explore the first of the three perspectives: the Sociology of the Social - traditionally known as Classical Sociological Theory, with a special focus on three Sociologists who are considered founders of (European) Sociology: Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and Georg Simmel.
We will investigate how these scholars understand and practice social sciences, and how they define their objects of study. Students will be provided with the critical tools and methodological approaches necessary to analyze and evaluate questions like: What is “Society” (is there only one?) or “the Social”? The goal of the course is not only to understand and recap the essentials of the classical theories and models, but also to connect, compare, contrast and learn how to exercise subject-oriented criticism in regard to these concepts and theories. Eventually, we will strive to look beyond the artificially drawn lines that separate the three perspectives in sociological thought.