

300677 HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY (winter semester)

The course relates how History as an academic discipline was influenced by the positivism of the Natural Sciences and worked out an empirical method which was based on the critical analysis of the historical sources. In this way, History became a narrative science according to Leopold von Ranke, the great German Historian, who was only interested in "what was really happened". This kind of History was criticized intensively by the "Annales" School which supported that historians should explain "how" and "why" facts happened than just narrate "what" happened. These were the circumstances which led to the transition from the political, diplomatic and military history to the economic and social one. Namely, the historians inaugurated the use of quantitative methods and the study of the structure instead of the individual acts. In other words the History was removed from the Humanities and approached the Social Sciences. The course's main topics are the problems of objectivity, causality, generalization and the protagonists of the historical facts.

<https://openeclass.panteion.gr/courses/TMC110/>