

CORVINUS UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST, MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY
FINAL EXAMINATION INFORMATION
FOR STUDENTS ADMITTED IN 2020

According to the legislation in force, one of the conditions for completing a Master's degree is that students have to pass the final examination in the subjects specified below.

The final oral examination takes place in front of a committee.

Subjects concerned:

1. theoretical knowledge and main subjects connected to the MA program
 - theories of global social changes
 - technology and society
 - gender and work
2. methodological skills

In the final exam, students have to analyse one of the questions in detail. In the answer, they have to give an integrated account of his/her knowledge of the related theory and methodology.

The examination questions:

- 1. Based on the concept of social shaping of technology (Mackenzie- Wajcman 1999), discuss some examples where such shaping can be observed!**

MacKenzie, D. – Wajcman J. (1999): Introductory essay: the social shaping of technology. In: MacKenzie, Donald and Wajcman, Judy, eds. *The social shaping of technology*. 2nd ed., Open University Press, Buckingham, UK. ISBN 9780335199136, available at:
<https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/28638/1/Introductory%20essay%20%28LSERO%29.pdf>

Abdulrahman E.A. Al Lily (2013): The social shaping of educational technologies in Saudi Arabia: An examination of how the social fabric shapes the construction and use of technologies, *Technology in Society*, 35, 203–222

- 2. Introduce the concept of technological determinism (Dotson 2015). Discuss some examples of expectations of the future where such technological determinism can be observed! What can be some dangers of the popularity of technological deterministic thinking?**

Dotson, T. (2015): Technological Determinism and Permissionless Innovation as Technocratic Governing Mentalities: Psychocultural Barriers to the Democratization of Technology. *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*, 98 – 120, available at:
<https://estsjournal.org/index.php/ests/article/view/8/20>

- 3. How can the sociology of expectations be used to discuss the future related to the development of artificial intelligence? Introduce some important tenets and concepts of the sociology of expectations and show how they can be applied to the debate on the future of work and artificial intelligence!**

Vicsek, L. (2020), "Artificial intelligence and the future of work – lessons from the sociology of expectations", *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-05-2020-0174>

- 4. Discuss the concepts of 1st, 2nd and 3rd level digital divide! What are the consequences of the digital divide? What are some determinants of first, second and third level digital divide? Discuss the situation with digital inequality in a country of your choice.**

Scheerder, A., Van Deursen, A., & Van Dijk, J. (2017). Determinants of Internet skills, uses and outcomes. A systematic review of the second-and third-level digital divide. *Telematics and informatics*, 34(8), 1607-1624.

Van Deursen, A. J., & Van Dijk, J. A. (2019). The first-level digital divide shifts from inequalities in physical access to inequalities in material access. *New Media & Society*, 21(2), 354-375.

- 5. Based on the concept of “gender revolution” coined among others by Paula England (2016, 2020) assess the development of gender equality locally (in your country/region) and globally! Discuss the supporting and limiting factors in trend!**

England, P., Levine, A., & Mishel, E. (2020). Progress toward gender equality in the United States has slowed or stalled. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(13), 6990-6997.

World Economic Forum (2021) *Global Gender Gap Report 2021*, <https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2021> (related parts)

- 6. Women’s growing labour market participation and contemporary capitalism’s “disinvestment from social welfare” (Fraser 2016: 104) lead to serious tensions between production and reproduction. Describe the contradictions on local and global level as well!**

Hochschild, A. R. (1998). The Nanny Chain: Mothers Minding Other Mothers' Children. *The American Prospect* (January 3, 2000), 32-6.

Fraser, N. (2016). Contradictions of capital and care. *New Left Review*, 100(99), 99-117.

- 7. Apply the Pascall - Lewis model to the gender regime of your country! (Draw the structure of gender equality policies in all five sectors across individual, household, civil society and national levels! (Legal, social, economic and political institutions, gender attitudes, etc.)**

Pascall, G., & Lewis, J. (2004). Emerging gender regimes and policies for gender equality in a wider Europe. *Journal of Social Policy*, 33(3), 373-394.
doi:10.1017/S004727940400772X

- 8. Analyse gender differences in access to economic and political power. What are the tendencies and explanations behind this inequality.**

Williams, Ch. (2013) The Glass Escalator, Revisited: Gender Inequality in Neoliberal Times, SWS Feminist Lecturer. *Gender & Society* 27(5) 609-629

Criteria for answering the questions:

Criterion 1: Describe the theoretical and academic background of the problem in question (based on classical and contemporary authors). Summarize the theoretical and historical relevance of the problem.

Criterion 2: Describe the theories, models and previous research applied to answer the question. While describing the theories and models, explain the social mechanism(s).

Criterion 3: What kind of empirical implications can be derived from the theories and models presented? Formulate your hypotheses in concrete terms!

Criterion 4: What type of research method would you apply to investigate the empirical implications? What kind of alternative explanation(s) can be formulated for the empirical consequences?