SOCi410
Alternative Futures and the Sociological Imagination

About the paper

SOCI410 centres on one of the main areas of analysis in sociology, namely social change. The paper draws on classic and contemporary insights into alternatives that are geared towards more just and equitable futures. It also explores lived experiences of alternative ways of seeing, knowing, being and doing. Students are encouraged to take up the challenge put forward by Portuguese sociologist, Boaventura de Sousa Santos, to engage in an 'alternative thinking of alternatives' and to consider the kinds of social realities that may be possible in a decolonised, post-capitalist future.

While a background in sociology is advantageous, it is not a pre-requisite. You need a B+ average for your undergraduate degree to be eligible to enrol for this paper. Lectures are student-led and involve 'seminar-style', interactive participation.

What have former students said about the teaching style?

'We have all benefited from the opportunity to take leadership roles in discussions...this has called us to a higher level of responsibility and ownership over our collective learning.'

'The assessment and teaching in this paper helped me develop skills that will be valuable for life, beyond just the subject matter.'

'Although I find on-the-spot discussion difficult, I valued the way this paper was taught -- the style invited and encouraged me to get outside my comfort zone and think and learn in new ways.'

'The class discussion was so great. I learnt so much from the ideas everyone brought to the class and being part of active learning was a new experience.'

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