

## **International Seminar On Teaching Research Methodology of Human and Social Sciences**

### **Problematique :**

Nowadays, we are living a profound change that confirms certain trends and contradicts some others. The century old trend towards more subtlety, complexity and uncertainty is confirmed.

In the new society that is emerging, with the new economy based on information and communication technologies on the background, knowledge becomes a key resource. Knowledge allows us to take on the challenge of complexity, and that requires an intensive use of intelligence in the domain of scientific research. The analysis of complex problems in an ephemeral and uncertain world demands in particular the mastery of a research methodology.

Knowledge is constituted by an ensemble of narrations resulting from different procedures and modes of apprehension, collection, selection, organization, analysis, interpretation, systematization and formalization of data. All these elements constitute the methodology of research. We can refer to different types of knowledge rather than knowledge in general, since ensembles of narrations and procedures are socially and historically marked. Knowledge is what is considered as a coherent and legitimate ensemble at a given time.

At the very same time then that questions of methodology should constitute the main part of the university curriculum, the teaching of social sciences research methodology at Algerian universities seems to be problematic as attested by teachers and the “quality” of theses produced each year.

The objective of the seminar is to better define the elements of this problematique using a systemic and multidisciplinary approach. Based on the analysis of the different components of the university system by scholars from different fields of research, the idea is to first make a diagnosis of the situation, and then formulate innovative propositions aiming at improving the teaching of social sciences methodology.

### **Axis 1 : Diagnosis of the situation:**

Is the problem related to the system's actors and their strategies?

- Problem of knowledge (lack of...)
- Problem of attitude (lack of interest, disaffection...)
- Problem of behavior (rejection of the system...)

Is the problem related to the university as an organization?

- Problem of organization
- Problem of procedures
- Problem of means
- Problem of rules
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Is the problem related to the social environment?

- Problem of culture
- Problem of ideology
- ...

**Axis 2** : What can different social sciences propose as innovative solutions in regard to teaching methodology (epistemology, approaches, methods, techniques...)?