



**European Ph.D. on  
Social Representations and Communication**



**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

The **European Doctorate on Social Representations and Communication** (<http://www.europhd.eu>) represents a progressive educational curriculum for training early stage researchers through research in a cross-disciplinary paradigmatic field inspired by the **Social Representations Theory and Communication studies** (from the main optic of the social psychology, open to contributions from sociology, communication sciences, anthropology, socio-economic and political sciences, education, environmental studies, and other new trans-disciplinary thematic fields of studies focussed on “social issues”).

The European Doctorate on Social Representations and Communication has been approved since 1993 by:

- the **DG-Research** (selected as a Marie Curie Training Site Multipartner Organisation, T.M.R., High Level Scientific Conferences, [International Lab Meetings](#) project within the Marie Curie Actions Series of Scientific Events)
- the **DG-Education and Culture** (Erasmus Socrates Advanced Curriculum Development, [Intensive Programs](#), Teaching Staff Mobility, [So.Re.Com. THEmatic NETWORK](#))
- the **Italian Ministry for Universities and Research** under the Internationalisation of the Higher Education System programme
- the **French and Italian ministries** responsible for higher education under the Vinci Programme
- the **European University Association**, as main co-ordinator of the action “*Network of the Networks*” (Doctoral Program) .

Co-operation was established at the top institutional level on the basis of the shared Regulations of the European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication (**Inter-Institutional Agreement**), signed by representatives of universities who deliver the joint diploma in accordance with the new Regulations on Doctorate approved by the Academic Senate of the co-ordinating university, the University of Rome Sapienza (24-10-2006).

The European Doctorate on Social Representations and Communication is a well-established EU [consortium](#) (1993) of **22 universities: 17 universities in 9 European countries (AT, CH, CZ, ES, FR, IT, PT, RO, UK)**, institutionally linked to other **5 Universities in North America, in Latin America and in China**, to **1 National Research Institute INRETS** and the **Foundation for Social Sciences *Maison des Sciences de l’Homme*** in France and **3 small enterprises in Sweden, Ireland and Italy** specialised in the field of communication, new media and distant interactive training via web.

The European Doctorate on Social Representations and Communication awards a **joint doctoral degree** by six Universities in four European countries:

- **ITALY: Sapienza University - Rome, coordinator**
- **CZECH REPUBLIC: Masaryk University - Brno**
- **FRANCE: Universities of Aix-Marseille I, Paul-Valéry - Montpellier III and Lumière - Lyon 2**
- **ROMANIA: University Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Iasi**

in cooperation with a wider institutional network of European Universities located in:

- **AUSTRIA: Universities of Linz and of Wien**
- **FRANCE: École des hautes études en sciences sociales and Paris V – Sorbonne, Paris**
- **GREAT BRITAIN: Universities of Cambridge and London School of Economics**
- **PORTUGAL: Instituto Politecnico of Lisbon**
- **SPAIN: Universities of Basque Country - San Sebastian and Valencia**
- **SWITZERLAND: Universities of Geneva and Lausanne.**

These Universities have been partners in an Erasmus network since 1992 and since 1996 in a Socrates CDA selected by DG-Education and Culture as being among the best practices in Europe as CDAD within the IC 2000-2001.

The European Doctorate on Social Representations and Communication is also formally linked with non-European Universities located in North America, Latin America and Asia within the **Erasmus Mundus** Programme:

- **ARGENTINA: Universidad de Buenos Aires**
- **BRAZIL: Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina**
- **CANADA: University of Ottawa**
- **CHINA: Beijing Normal University and Nankai University**

and with other universities around the world via the **So.Re.Com.THEmatic NETWORK of excellence** ([www.europhd.eu/SoReComTHEmaticNETWORK](http://www.europhd.eu/SoReComTHEmaticNETWORK)).

Since 2008, in order to strengthen the **collaboration between universities and enterprises**, four non-academic partners have joined the European PhD on S.R. & C. institutional network. They are located in:

- **FRANCE: INRETS**
- **IRELAND: Eikon Strategic Consulting Ltd**
- **ITALY: Passpack Spa**
- **SWEDEN: CEFAB**

The non-academic partners have special responsibility for training in **transferable career skills** that researchers need at all stages in their careers. These include effective use of interactive e-learning technologies, research

and statistical software, web design, software programming, marketing, sales, management and entrepreneurship.

The European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication also collaborates with other **trans-disciplinary European networks specialised in e-learning (EuroPACE)** that actively participate in European projects to create a European Virtual University (VIRTUE, c-EVU, e-Competencies), with the institutional Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA), and with the global University-Community partnership for Social Action Research Network (UCP-SARnet).

This European Doctorate is **co-ordinated by the University of Rome Sapienza**, site of the advanced High Tech **European Ph.D. Research Centre and Multimedia Lab**, which integrates the three research pillars :

- **documentation services** (specialised intelligent eLibrary, full bibliographic inventory, meta-analysis inventory)
- **networking** (interactive web-videoconference, on-line virtual community)
- **research training** (European PhD “Virtual Campus”: video-courses in streaming, European Ph.D. Web-Auditorium, distant tutoring and co-tutoring, on-line evaluation on the personalised research trainee's web spaces, etc.).

**European standards** developed on the basis of **joint criteria** characterise all planning, curricular, organisational, policy and procedural aspects essential for the design and implementation of the European Doctorate including:

- candidate selection
- training of participants from different nationalities
- research activity and training in an international environment
- intensive didactic “stages” in multilingual and multicultural settings
- adoption of specifically designed schema of structured training
- language policy and format for Ph.D. dissertation
- evaluation of the entire training process and quality system
- formal recognition of the degree and award of joint diploma.

The **main thematic area** of this European Ph.D. and its related So.Re.Com. network of excellence is a paradigmatic area of Social Psychology inspired by the Social Representations Theory and Communication studies. The Social Representations Theory is one of the 20th century's most important theories of the social construction of knowledge. The study of social representations, originally specifically European, is currently a multilingual, world-wide discipline with a substantial body of literature. It involves leading scholars from both social psychology and the social sciences: sociology, anthropology, education, economics, linguistics, semiotics and communication and media studies. The field of Social Representations represents a unifying meta-theoretical perspective on the social construction of knowledge and its relation to socially situated practices.

Consequently, the European Ph.D. program is open to **trans-disciplinary and multi-methodological research approaches** (experimental and field work). Studies of “what” people know - and “how” it relates to the social groups to which they belong and to the media – are concerned with the social construction and representation of a particular object (e.g. health-illness, environment, new technologies, politics, economics, European integration and enlargement, minority groups, immigrants and racism, human rights, etc.) and how its related scientific theories are transformed into everyday knowledge.

The European PhD on Social Representations and Communication is structured in Research Teams on specific Thematic areas and sub-topics, thus strengthening the scientific co-operation between the partners, and orienting the new candidates when presenting their research project proposal. The synergies created by working within these teams, composed of academic, public and private sector institutions and businesses provide research trainees with a much wider experience both in terms of complementary paradigmatic options, methodologies and contents. It is also an opportunity to explore employment possibilities outside of academia that they otherwise might not have considered.

The main research teams are:

- Theoretical and Methodological Development of the Social Representation Research Field
- Science and Social Representations
- Culture, Globalisation and Social Representations
- Communication, Media and Social Representations
- Collective Memory, Emotions and Social Representations
- Identity and Social Representations
- Social Representations and Politics
- Family, Youth, Community, Education and Social Representations of Institutional policies
- Social Representations and Environment
- Social Representations and the Economy
- Social Representations, Advertising, Marketing and Organisational contexts
- Social Representations, Community and Health Applied Research

- Risk, Social Representations and Social and Economic Life

For further details on the research areas and sub-topics, please consult the website at the following link:

<http://www.europhd.eu/html/onda01/01/08.00.00.00.shtml>

The European Ph.D. focuses on **advanced training** in the field of social representations and communication by developing:

- theoretical and meta-theoretical knowledge
- multi-methodological expertise
- fieldwork and applied value of the research
- international networking and comparative research
- transferable skills.

The specific **benefits** of the training structure for European PhD research trainees and the key didactic formula adopted consist of:

- Access to **leading international experts** in various Countries and Continents (including the founder of the Social Representation Theory, who is also the Program Director of the European Ph.D. on S.R. and C.)
- **Variety of methodological approaches** (quantitative, qualitative, field and experimental)
- **Multi and Trans-disciplinary approaches**
- **Tutoring and co-tutoring triadic system (multiple supervision)**: In the course of their doctoral studies, research trainees are required to be in continuous contact with their three tutors belonging to Universities located in three different European Countries. The restricted number of research trainees per tutor per year insures individualised multiple tutoring and close monitoring of research trainees' progress.
- **Interlocking structured system of virtual (open learning system) and physical mobility of both research trainees and teaching staff at the individual and collective levels.**
  - **International mobility** is achieved both at the **individual and collective levels** by taking into account that international mobility is only *a tool, not a goal in itself*:
  - With regard to **individual physical mobility**, individual research trainees are required to relocate abroad for at least six months to work in two different European countries and two different research centres at host institutions with which their tutors are associated and from whom they receive individual tutoring and co-tutoring for their research work.
  - **Collective mobility** involves all research trainees enrolled in the program and tutors from all the partner universities and is achieved during intensive stages, like the **International Summer Schools**, or the face-to-face sessions of **International Lab meetings**.
- **Adequate infrastructure and dedicated facilities**: the **European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication** at the co-ordinating university and other laboratories at network universities. The advanced High Tech infrastructure includes a common website enabling linkage between international physical and virtual mobility (access to a dedicated Portal and web-auditorium interactive system, personalised space in the website reserved to each research trainee and his/her three tutors, program director and coordinator) and facilitates innovative practices adopted for teaching, tutoring and co-tutoring, network management, etc., allows for flexibility between face-to-face and open distance learning interactive contexts.
- **Transmission of transferable general skills** (such as modern presentation techniques, conference presentation, workshop organisation, design and organization of academic work, research team management, and management of statistical software, large bibliographies and international databases, etc.) focused on **learning by doing**, involving research trainees in scientific activities either individually or in small and medium teams and in different contexts (such as presenting their research progress during International Lab Meetings and International Summer Schools, use of the web-auditorium, organising small seminars, participating in international conferences, advanced training courses for different statistical software packages, writing joint papers, participating in European projects and international networking, cooperating in meta-theoretical analysis of the specialised literature on Social Representations and Communication, managing a large bibliographic inventory, contributing to the development of a specialised virtual library, etc.).

For more information about **admission requirements and online application form**:

<http://www.europhd.eu/html/onda01/04/00.00.00.00.shtml>

It is technically possible to apply for admission any time of the year. However, due to the fact that the finalists for admission usually are interviewed during the International Summer School on Social Representations and Communication at the European PhD Research Centre and Multimedia Lab in Rome, we advise applicants to complete their applications by the **deadline** indicated in the announcement (usually May 10) published in December for the following academic year. Late applications can be considered if there are places still available.