

Explaining the Social World: Approaches in the Social Sciences

Tallinn University

June 11-12, 2026

Room A-206

Thursday, 11.06

10:00-10:30: Registration and welcome

10:30-11:15: **Marina Vahter** (Tallinn University), "Deterministic moral explanation vs constitutive ethics-based explanation"

11:15-12:00: **Jon Frederiksen** (University of Helsinki), "Practice & Prejudice"

12:00-13:00: Coffee and lunch break

13:00-13:45: **Joonatan Nõgisto** (Tallinn University), "The causal and constitutive explanatory relevance of social relations"

13:45-14:30: **Zakaria Tavberidze** (University of Tartu), "What do mechanisms do in transitions? A conceptual framework and systematic literature review"

14:30-15:00 Break

15:00-15:45: **Aaro Toomela** (Tallinn University), "Structural-systemic epistemology: Why it is impossible for any social science to arrive at explanations without relevant psychology"

15:45-16:30: **Tuukka Kaidesoja** (University of Eastern Finland), "Mediated actions and affordances in mechanism-based explanations of social macro-phenomena: The case of selfies"

Friday, 12.06

10:00-10:45: **Kadi Kass** (University of Tartu), "From lived experience to relational epistemology: rethinking social scientific explanation through dialogical and co-research approaches"

10:45-11:30: **Tõnis Saarts** (Tallinn University), "The three blind spots of the historical institutionalist explanations"

11:45-12:30: **Petri Ylikoski** (University of Helsinki), "Macro-micro mechanisms"

12:30-13:30: Coffee and lunch break

13:30-14:15: **Jaakko Kuorikoski** (University of Helsinki), "Demystifying social structural explanation"

14:15-15:00: **Raivo Vetik** (Tallinn University), “Explaining national identity in an asymmetric social field: the Meta-Viewpoint Model versus analytical-sociological mechanisms”

15:00-15:30: Break

15:30-16:15: **Aki Lehtinen** (University of Helsinki), “Explaining with false models that entail false results”

16:15-17:00: **Riin Kõiv** (University of Barcelona), “Evidence regarding population-level but not individual-level genetic causation?”