

### **Invited Talk**

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### **Paradigm man vs. the bricoleur: Gradual ideational change following the financial crisis**

The recent financial- and economic crisis laid bare significant and hugely consequential weaknesses in the market-friendly ideas that had inspired financial and economic governance in the preceding boom period. This led many critics of neoliberalism to expect a paradigm shift in the ideas employed by policymakers to regulate markets. However, six years down the road, these expectations and aspirations can hardly be claimed to have been borne out: No paradigm change has occurred in the way modern capitalism is regulated. That being said, significant ideational and institutional changes have taken place in a number of policy areas. This presents a puzzle to theories of ideational change within political science that have predominantly depicted ideational change as taking place through large paradigmatic shifts following long periods of stability. With inspiration from discourse theory, the talk offers a theoretical perspective on ideational change that may account for how ideas can change in gradual albeit significant ways. It also employs the concept of bricolage - first developed by the anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss - to develop a vision of political agency as characterized by stepwise adjustments of existing ideas and institutions, even in face of crisis.