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SH3 panel

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Social Science and Humanities



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SH3 « The Social World and Its Interactions » covers sociology, social psychology, education sciences, communication studies

Assessment based upon groundbreaking nature of the proposal, simplicity & clarity in framing objectives, central question(s) & approach

Tip ! Do not tell, illustrate

Evaluation



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- Two steps : Step 1 & Step 2
 - Panel members & remote reviewers
 - Conversation & discussion are key
 - Assessment as a solid & dynamic process

Panel selection & Key words



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- SH3 « The Social World and Its Interactions » covers sociology, social psychology, education sciences, communication studies
 - Select a panel based on the style of knowledge production, not topic
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- Use keywords to guide reviewer's expertise
 - First choice KWs: anchored to a recognisable field, core analytical concepts, core theoretical frameworks
 - Second choice KWs: methods, contemporary transformations

Weaknesses Vs Strengths



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- Objectives are clearly defined but how far they advance frontier knowledge can be questioned
 - Analytical framing is presented but it often does not match fully the objectives
 - Actual execution of the objectives so that the innovative idea is jeopardized
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- Interpretation & originality: incremental and not groundbreaking
 - A pilot (first) as well as the 'first' in doing something in the field is not enough to claim groundbreaking
 - Conflating concepts and theoretical perspectives
 - Tension between empirical scale & theoretical ambition
 - Small N while claiming to speak to broader processes, mechanisms, dynamics
 - Suitability, clarity, transparency of the approach
 - Feasibility and mitigation strategies

Interview



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- Simple

- Start from the What, How & Why question
- Why you ?

Recommendations



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- ERC is not filling a gap
 - It is a bold research that shift the field
 - A clear intellectual rupture with existing work
 - A project which would be worth funding even if only partially successful

→ If your project feels fully safe probably it is not an ERC
- One strong, central, sharp research question which can explained in 1-2 sentences
- Show transformative potential but avoid ‘policy washing’
- Build a ‘conceptual belt’ not just an empirical study
- State of the art positioning not summary
- Methodology must follow ambition:
 - Why the methods are capable to answer the question
- Feasibility must be real (and also reflected in numbers (budget) terms)