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Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations:
Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy



Newsletter No. 3 / 2015

Research Training Group "Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations: Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy" at the University of Potsdam



Joint PhD workshop

From 8 to 11 November 2015, eleven doctoral researchers and four senior researchers from universities across Europe gathered in Dahnsdorf - a village in Brandenburg. They convened for the four-day WIPCAD PhD Workshop on *Research processes in the field of Public Administration and Public Policy - challenges of concepts and methods*, organized by WIPCAD doctoral researchers [Basanta Thapa](#) and [Ina Radtke](#).

Central to the workshop was the discussion of conceptual and methodological concerns in the doctoral researchers' PhD projects. Following the format of "peer supervision", the PhD students formed small groups where three to four participants focused for a full hour on one PhD project and any related concerns. According to the nature of the concerns, these groups were categorized into a theory, method, operationalization and access cluster. [\[more...\]](#)

Joint PhD research days on Public Administration

From 27 to 30 October 2015, the Research Training Group WIPCAD and researchers from the University of Lausanne (UNIL) organized the *Joint PhD research days on Public Administration* at the University of Potsdam. Besides [Prof. Isabella Proeller](#), deputy spokesperson of WIPCAD and Professor for Public and Nonprofit Management at the University of Potsdam, [Prof. Yves Emery](#) and [Prof. Nils Soquel](#) from the University of Lausanne chaired the research days. The aim was to bring together PhD students from Potsdam and Lausanne who work on similar topics regarding the phenomena of Public Administration organizations, and to provide a forum for scientific exchange between Potsdam and Lausanne. [\[more...\]](#)

Basanta Thapa serves as „Young Researchers‘ Ambassador“ at ICT 2015 in Lisbon

From 20 to 22 October 2015, WIPCAD doctoral fellow Basanta Thapa was invited as one of 40 students, young researchers and entrepreneurs from all over Europe to participate in the European Commission's [ICT 2015 Student Outreach Program](#). [ICT 2015](#) is this year's edition of the European Commission's biennial conference on policies and initiatives as well as research and innovation in information and communication technologies in the European Union. Hosted in Lisbon's Centro de Congressos, the conference had more than 150 exhibitors and 7000 registered participants.

Presentations and exhibitions at the conference included findings from EU-sponsored ICT research projects, upcoming funding opportunities under the Horizon 2020 framework as well as goals and actions under the EU's Digital Agenda. [\[more...\]](#)



New class of WIPCAD doctoral fellows

At the beginning of October 2015, WIPCAD gave a warm welcome to its seven [new doctoral fellows](#). The welcome program included an academic introduction, a campus tour as well as guided tours to Potsdam and Berlin. A meeting within the framework of the new Buddy Program - a support program for the new fellows - also took place. The festivities concluded with a reception that brought together old and new fellows as well as members of our faculty to start off a successful winter term.

Photo: Thomas Roesse, University of Potsdam

Dr. Thurid Hustedt transfers to FU Berlin

Since October 2015, [Dr. Thurid Hustedt](#), former post-doctoral researcher at WIPCAD, is Visiting Professor at the Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science at Free University Berlin. During her research in WIPCAD, from February 2014 until September 2015, she focused on the organization of wicked problems and the case of climate change.

Ina Radtke is elected as spokeswoman of the working group "Migration Policy" of the DVPW

On 24 September 2015, together with Dr. Uwe Hunger (University of Münster), Prof. Dr. Roswitha Pioch (University of Kiel) and Dr. Stefan Rother (University of Freiburg), WIPCAD doctoral fellow [Ina Radtke](#) was elected spokeswoman of the working group *Migration Policy* of the Deutsche Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft (DVWP) at the the DVPW congress in Duisburg. The working group was founded during the DVPW Congress in Potsdam in 1994. It aims to maintain a stable framework for

discussions and collaboration among migration scholars and promote young academics. The working group also organizes conferences and workshops as well as a book series published by Springer.

Emanuele Frezza and Basanta Thapa present at EUROLOC/EURA Summer School "Innovations in Local Government"

From 13 to 17 September 2015, WPCAD doctoral fellows [Basanta Thapa](#) and [Emanuele Frezza](#) participated in a workshop on *Innovation in Local Government*, a joint PhD training hosted by the [Anargyrios and Korgialienos School of Spetses](#) at the University of Athens and organized by the [European Local Government Network \(EUROLOC\)](#) and [European Urban Research Association \(EURA\)](#). [\[more...\]](#)



Photo: Karla Fritze, University of Potsdam

Interview with WPCAD fellows in the Potsdam University Magazine *Portal Wissen*

The 2/2015 issue of the Magazine [Portal Wissen](#) includes an article about the Research Training Group WPCAD at the University of Potsdam. The article *Problem Komplex - Was Verwaltungen herausfordert und wie sie damit umgehen* introduces the research projects of the doctoral fellows [Basanta Thapa](#) and [Robert Gäde](#) and illustrates the research agenda of the Research Training Group WPCAD with these examples. A German version of the article can be downloaded in pdf-format [here](#).

Thurid Hustedt stays at the University of Toronto, Canada

From 5 March to 15 April 2015, [Dr. Thurid Hustedt](#) visited the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto as a guest researcher. As the largest political science department in Canada, the department is home to a wide range of research groups. It is among the leading institutes in various research areas and offered a fruitful environment. Thurid Hustedt worked on a data set on the organizational structures for the formation of climate policies in a comparative perspective and prepared various cooperation activities with her host, Jonathan Craft, on research on political advisors and policy advisory systems. Part of this cooperation is a joined panel at next year's IPSA Conference as well as the preparation of a special issue forthcoming in *Policy Sciences*.

Research Visits, Conferences

From 21 to 25 September, WPCAD doctoral fellow [Ina Radtke](#) attended the Congress of the German Political Science Association (DVPW) in Duisburg-Essen. She presented the paper *Security, economy or humanity? - Which perspective on immigration dominates the implementation structure?*.

From 3 to 6 September 2015, [Dr. Thurid Hustedt](#) attended the 111th Annual Meeting 2015 of the American Political Science Association (APSA) in San Francisco, US, on the theme, *Diversities Reconsidered: Politics, and Political Science, in the 21st Century*. The American Political Science Association is the leading professional organization for the study of political science. During the conference Thurid Hustedt presented her paper *Government structures and coordination complexity: Organizing for climate change* in the Panel *Climate Politics and Preferences for Domestic and International Policy*.

From 7 to 10 July 2015, [Prof. Dettel Sprinz](#) visited the conference *Our Common Future Under Climate Change* (www.commonfuture-paris2015.org/) in Paris. The international negotiations on the future global climate regime are scheduled to deliver an agreement by the end of 2015. As part of the preparatory process, the French government hosted this academic conference as a joint venture of UNESCO with Sorbonne Universities. [\[more...\]](#)

From 2 to 4 July 2015, [Prof. Maja Apelt](#), Professor of Organizational and Administrative Sociology, attended the [European Group for Organizational Studies \(EGOS\) Colloquium in Athens](#). EGOS provides the unique opportunity to meet sociologists, economists and political scientists who are interested in organizational studies, not only from Europe but from countries all over the world. The EGOS Conference takes place every year in summer. It started with a Pre-Colloquium, e.g. a PhD and Post-doctoral workshop and a Women's Network meeting in which Prof. Apelt participated. [\[more...\]](#)

On 01 July 2015, [Lydia Malmldie](#) lectured at the Venice School of Human Rights as part of the stream on Gender Based Violence - from CEDAW to Istanbul and beyond. She got participants from all over the world to discuss whether the Istanbul Convention on Gender Based Violence could have adopted broader idea of gender which is inclusive of trans and intersex people rather than to focus on women.

On 16 June 2015, [Lydia Malmldie](#) addressed Humanity in Action's fellows on *The European Union's Role in Promoting Human Rights of LGBTI People in Sub-Saharan Africa*. [The Diplomacy and Diversity Fellowship](#) by Humanity in Action is a four-week graduate fellowship program in Washington, DC, Paris and Berlin. It convenes a group of 24 American and European graduate students for an intense program of discussions and site visits with experts and practitioners from foreign ministries and governmental agencies, international NGOs, universities, the private sector, think tanks, media outlets and foreign policy organizations.

From April to June 2015, [Alexander Gaus](#), doctoral researcher at WPCAD, was a [visiting researcher](#) at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, US. He joined the Mortara Center for International Studies, which is part of Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. This Center promotes interdisciplinary research on advance policy-relevant knowledge about international, political, social, and economic issues, and to generate communities of research and practice on key global concerns. [\[more...\]](#)

Visiting Fellows

From 10 to 19 November 2015, WPCAD welcomed [Prof. Dr. Renate Meyer](#), Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria as WPCAD Guest Researcher. She delivered a guest lecture on *Fragmentation and complexity: Governing organizational landscapes after the agency fever* in the WPCAD Lecture Series. In addition she offered a workshop for PhD fellows on *Challenges for Urban Management and Governance* on 19 November 2015.

From 25 to 27 January 2016, WPCAD welcomes [Prof. Stephen Osborne](#) from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, as visiting researcher. His research is focused, among other things, on Public Management Reform, Services Management and Public Policy. During his stay he will give a public lecture on *The SERVICE framework - towards resilient and sustainable public services in the twenty-first century* within the WPCAD lecture series.

Upcoming events

- 11 December 2015 - Workshop *Qualitative Organisationsforschung* on the topic *Organisationen unter Mediatisierungsdruck*
Lecturer: [Heiko Kirschner, M.A.](#) (University Vienna)
- 16 December 2015 - WPCAD Lecture Series on *World Organizations - (Re-)conceptualizing international organizations in a complex world*
Lecturer: [Dr. Martin Koch](#) (Bielefeld University)
- 06 January 2016 - WPCAD Lecture Series on *Institutional ambiguity and the management of child protection in Germany*
Lecturer: [Prof. Dr. Ingo Bode](#) (University of Kassel)

If you have any questions regarding the newsletter please contact coordinator@wpcad-potsdam.de.

Research Training Group WPCAD at the University of Potsdam
August-Bebel-Str. 89
14482 Potsdam
Deutschland

coordinator@wpcad-potsdam.de