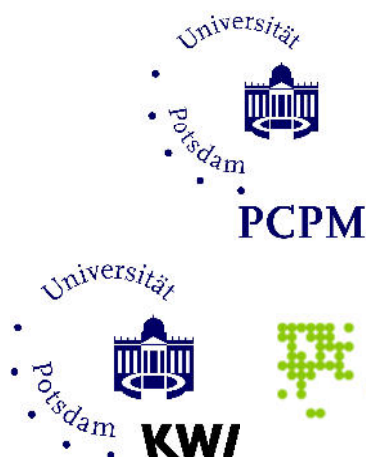




local government
and politics
LOGOPOL



Call for Applications

“Contested Administrations – Challenged Politics: Addressing Wicked Problems at Local, National, and International Levels of Government”

Joint PhD-Training School organized by

The University of Potsdam (Focus Area “Public Policy & Management”), the COST Action IS1207 “Local Public Sector Reforms: An International Comparison (LocRef)”, the Research Group (Graduate School) on “Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations: Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy” (WIPCAD), the Institute of Local Government Studies of the University of Potsdam (KWI) and the EUROLOC and EURA Summer School Cooperation

September 13 to September 16, 2016

Venue: *The University of Potsdam, Campus Griebnitzsee, August-Bebel-Str. 89, Haus 7, 14482 Potsdam*

<http://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/index.html>

Contact: Christian Schwab, University of Potsdam (chschwab@uni-potsdam.de)

For more information about the **Training School (content/schedule)** and the COST Action ‘LocRef’: Professor Dr. **Sabine Kuhlmann** (Sabine.Kuhlmann@uni-potsdam.de) and **Christian Schwab** (chschwab@uni-potsdam.de), both University of Potsdam or at <http://www.uni-potsdam.de/cost-locref/>

For more information about EUROLOC, EURA and the ECPR Standing Group LOGOPOL: Professor Dr. **Angelika Vetter** (angelika.vetter@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de), University of Stuttgart or at

<http://www.eura.org>

<http://www.ecpr.eu/StandingGroups/StandingGroupHome.aspx?ID=19>

About the PhD-Training School:

The Training Schools overall topic is “**Contested Administrations – Challenged Politics**”. All levels of government (local, regional, national, international) in Europe are in a period of intense reform activity. As a result of the still enduring (global) crisis, financial, demographical and societal problems need to be faced simultaneously to overcome – partly contradictory – reform pressures. Respective reforms thus often aim at conflicting objectives (e.g. efficiency vs. citizen participation). Such policy problems like food safety, counter-terrorism, climate change, declining political legitimacy, citizen protests, the acceptance of large scale infrastructure projects or migration have been labeled ‘**wicked problems**’ by practitioners and scientists alike, putting them in contrast to ‘tame issues’ with easily identifiable single issues with a clear territorial locus or readily identifiable causal origin. Public administrations and politics are expected to be able to cope with such inter-connected, multi-dimensional problem constellations. In analytical terms, it means that these policy issues are characterized by a combination of simultaneously high levels of complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity, with far-reaching repercussions for organizational boundaries, attentiveness and problem-solving capacities. Subsequently, public administrations today require sophisticated management skills, complex structures of delegation, discretion, coordination, control as well as information and knowledge management. As a result, the question of how public administrations can acquire the requisite knowledge, ensure appropriate coordination and devise appropriate strategies has moved to the forefront of debate for both practitioners and researchers in the social sciences. Similarly, local democracy is challenged by these policies and at the same time changes in society and multi-level decision-making arrangements. Problems of declining legitimacy, declining voter turnout, declining accountability, rising protests, growing complexity and intransparency in local governance arrangements are only some of the problems of local democracy that wait to be solved.

Against this background, the PhD-Training School is meant to discuss reforms, experiments and changes addressing ‘wicked problems’ in multi-level settings. The course intends to provide training in theories and methods to be applied in the study of public sector reforms, public administrations’, local politics and democracy and adjacent fields coping with ‘wicked problems’, especially in comparative perspectives. In addition, PhD students have the opportunity to “meet the publishers” and to foster their knowledge through mutual learning from each other in a small group.

Organization

Who can participate: We encourage early stage researchers (PhD students and PhDs + 8 years) from disciplines such as administrative science, law, economics, public management, sociology, political science or history interested in the overall topic to participate. The number of participants is limited to 25.

Certificate of Attendance: Every participant receives a certificate of attendance. The certificate includes a brief course description, which may be sufficient for your home University to grant you some credit points for the attendance. We will suggest five credit points. Students are expected to give a brief presentation of their work (PhD topic, about 15-20 minutes) during the seminar, to shortly comment one assigned paper chosen among those presented by other PhD Students (about 5-10 minutes) and to deliver a written paper on their work (PhD or research) until 2 weeks before the start of the Training School.

Fee and Financing:

Participants should apply for **financial support from the COST project**. The COST Action 'LocRef' can give a grant to 20 applicants coming from the participating countries of the Action (click here for eligible countries: http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/isch/Actions/IS1207?parties).

The **grant** will be a **lump sum of 500. - €** for participants from **outside Germany**. Grants for participants **from Germany will not be possible**. Attendance on all four lecture days is mandatory. The selection will be based on the paper/abstract quality. Lunch and coffee breaks are included and for free. Participants need to find their own accommodation in Potsdam/Berlin (recommendations will be provided).

Registration procedure: Please submit an abstract that provides a brief outline of your current work (PhD topic/project outline, 300 words max., in English) accompanied by a short CV, electronically by **June 30, 2016**. To **apply for the PhD-grant** of the COST Action LocRef and to register, please send your abstract and CV to Sabine Kuhlmann (sabine.kuhlmann@uni-potsdam.de), Christian Schwab (chschwab@uni-potsdam.de) and Angelika Vetter (angelika.vetter@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de) and refer to 'PhD-Training School Grant 2016' in the subject line.

Acceptance of participants and grantees will be notified within July.

“Contested Administrations – Challenged Politics: Addressing Wicked Problems at Local, National, and International Levels of Government”

Provisional Programme (13.09. – 16.09. 2016)

DATE	HOUR	SESSION	LECTURERS/DISCUSSANTS	TOPIC
13 th Sept.	9:00	OPENING	Prof. M. HEINEMANN (tbc; Dean of the Faculty) Prof. S. KUHLMANN (COST & Local Organizer) Prof. H.FUHR/I.PROELLER (tbc; WIPCAD) Prof. T. SCHMIDT (tbc; KWI)	Welcoming & ‘LocRef’ Project Course Objectives
Theme Day 1: Contested Administrations: Reforming the (Local) Public Sector in Europe (tbc)				
	9:30	Lecture 1	Prof. S. KUHLMANN	<i>“Administrative reforms in context: a comparative perspective”</i>
	10:30	Student Presentations 1-2*		
	11:50	Break		
	12:00	Student Presentations 3-4*		
	13:20	Lunch		
	14:20	Lecture 2	Prof. G. BOUCKAERT	<i>“Reforming reforms: new approaches for a sustainable public sector”</i>
	15:20	Student Presentation 5-6*		
	16:40	Break		

	16:50	Student Presentations 7-8*		
	18:10	Summing Up	Prof. H. TORSTEINSEN	
Theme Day 2: Research Methods				
14th Sept.	9:00	Lecture 3	Prof. A. VETTER	<i>"Social Science Methodology: Wicked Problems in Studying the Effects of Reforms"</i>
	10:00	Student Presentations 9-10*		
	11:20	Break		
	11:30	Student Presentation 11*		
	12:10	Methods Training (Part I)	Prof. H.V.D. KOLK	Research Questions
	13:10	Lunch		
	14:10	Methods Training (Part II)	Prof. H. V. D. KOLK	Theory and Hypothesis Testing
	15:10	Methods Training (Part III)	Prof. H.V.D. KOLK	Research Design and Case Selection
	16:10	Break		
	16:30	Methods Training (Part IV)	Prof. H.V.D. KOLK	Data Collection & Data Analysis
	17:30	Summing Up	Prof. A. VETTER Prof. H.V.D. KOLK	
	20:00	Joint Dinner		
Theme Day 3: Structures of (Local) Government in a Context of Multiple Levels, Coordination, and Collaboration: Fit for Resolving Wicked Problems? (tbc)				
15th Sep.	9:00	Lecture 4	Prof. F. TELES	<i>"Scale and governance capacity: coordination and efficiency at the regional level"</i>
	10:00	Student Presentations 12-13*		
	11:20	Break		

	11:30	Student Presentations 14-15*		
	12:50	Lunch		
	14:00	Lecture 5	Prof. T. STEEN	"Local governments in a new context of collaboration and coproduction"
	15:00	Student Presentations 16-17*		
	16:20	Break		
	16:30	Student Presentations 18-19*		
	17:50	Summing Up	Prof. J. FRANZKE	
Theme Day 4: Challenged Politics & Democratic Representation: Impact on Administrations? (tbc)				
16th Sep.	9:00	Lecture 6	S. BIRD (Publishing Editor, Routledge)	"Qs & As: What makes a good paper"
	10:00	Lecture 7	B. DENTERS (tbc)	"Topic tba"
	11:00	Break		
	11:10	Student Presentations 20-21*		
	12:30	Lunch		
	13:30	Lecture 8	Prof. A. LADNER (tbc)	"Topic tba"
	14:30	Student Presentations 22-23*		
	15:50	Break		
	16:00	Student Presentations 24-25*		
	17:20	Final Discussion & Closing	Prof. B. DENTERS Prof. A. LADNER C. SCHWAB	
Day 5: Social Day (voluntarily, tba.)				
17th Sep.	11:00	Forenoon Brunch in Berlin ("Frühshoppen") (tba.)		

	13:30	Berlin City Tour (tba.)		
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* Students' presentation are organized as following (and in this order):

- 15-20 minutes for the presentation of the research project/PhD topic
- 5-10 minutes for comments by the junior discussant (PhD student)
- 10 minutes for comments by the assembly
- 5 minutes for comments by the senior discussant (Trainer)

About the University of Potsdam & the Focus Area "Public Policy & Management"

With Brandenburg's largest university (approx. 20.000 students) and numerous extramural institutes, Potsdam is known as one of the regions with the highest density of research facilities in Germany. More than 8,000 people are already working in scholarship and science. Making the best possible use of synergies is self-evident. The Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences of the University of Potsdam was founded in 1991. It is based at Griebnitzsee campus and includes the departments Economic (Business Administration and Economics) and Social Sciences (Political and Administrative Sciences as well as Sociology) (see List of Professorships).

The interdisciplinary focus area on "Public Policy & Management" connects several chairs and their projects within the disciplines of Sociology, Economics, and Political and Administrative Sciences. Today, knowledge, coordination and strategic action are central requirements for modern governance in a fast changing and more and more complex society. At the same time, political steering and management functions today less via central steering than by the coordination of several political and societal actors. Therefore, the focus group provides scientific analyses and projects as well as consultation and assistance for policies and organizations.

For more information, please refer to <http://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/>

About the COST Action:

'LocRef' is an EU funded network of researchers coming from 32 European countries who work in the field of local public sector reforms. The Action provides a platform for establishing a new set of comparative knowledge on local public sector reforms and for integrating the fragmented research activities in this neglected area of investigation. It aims to enhance the scope of the conceptual foundations as well as the methodological rigor of comparative public administration. The research activities yields policy relevant knowledge concerning local reform measures from a European perspective, which can be utilized to improve policy making for future public sector modernization.

A major objective of the Action is to encourage young researchers in network building to promote their future careers. The aim is to strengthen their methodological skills as well as their conceptual and comparative knowledge on local public sector reforms. For more information, please refer to

http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/isch/Actions/IS1207; and <http://www.uni-potsdam.de/cost-locref/>

About WIPCAD:

The Research Training Group (RTG) on "Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations: Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy" (WIPCAD) is a newly established DFG-funded program to promote young researchers in the field of public administration. Its innovative and ambitious research theme, strong emphasis on interdisciplinarity as well as its integration in vibrant international networks of collaboration enhances Potsdam's standing as an international leading center for teaching, study and research of public administration.

Complexity, uncertainty, and ambiguity of current policy problems - such as climate hazards or welfare state reforms - fundamentally challenge how public administrations organize. The aim is to study the interrelationships between "wicked" policy problems and the development of administrative organizations on various levels. The RTG has a unique position within the German academic community and is exceptionally well placed to foster a young generation of scholars working at the international forefront of research.

About the Institute of Local Government Studies:

The Institute of Local Government Studies of the University of Potsdam is an interdisciplinary institute for research, training and consultancy in local government affairs. Main research areas are theoretical concepts of local government, legal framework of local government, modernization and reform of local government, local finance and local government in international comparative perspective. The Institute of Local Government Studies concentrates primarily on problems of local authorities in the five new German Länder (the former GDR). It aims to assist politicians and practitioners to establish a well-functioning administration.

See for more information: <http://www.uni-potsdam.de/kwi/index/en.html>

About EUROLOC and EURA:

The Standing Group in Local Government Studies of the European Consortium of Political Research (LOGOPOL) has been holding Summer Schools in Local Government and Governance Studies since 1995. In 2012, the Standing Group in Local Government Studies and EURA (European Research Association) joined their forces to work together by organizing the EUROLOC and EURA Summer School in Local Government and Governance studies. This Summer School supports PhD students in their research activities by giving them the opportunity to present and discuss their work with others and inspire their research. The aim is to bring students up-to-date with ongoing research in the field of local government and governance, develop links between PhD students and experienced researchers in the field of local government and governance studies who work with the same kind of research questions. They want to stimulate scientific exchange among students of different

backgrounds, foster cross-national working relations among the participants and contribute to the development of the comparative study of local politics and administration.

For more information about EUROLOC, EURA and the previous summer schools see http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/soz/avps/euroloc_neu/home/index.html