



Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations:
Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy



Newsletter N° 2 / 2016

DFG-Research Training Group "Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations: Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy" (WIPCAD) at the University of Potsdam

This newsletter will inform you on current group activities, visiting fellows and upcoming events of the group.

1. Group activities

- [a. WIPCAD fellows take the Potsdam PhDay 2016, 7 July 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)
- [b. WIPCAD fellow Basanta Thapa presents at summer school on „TechnoScienceSocieties“ in San Sebastián, 18-22 July 2016, Spain](#)
- [c. WIPCAD fellows at IPSA World Congress in Poznan, 23-28 July 2016, Poland](#)
- [d. WIPCAD fellows participated in 2016 ECPR Summer School, July-August 2016, Budapest, Hungary](#)
- [e. WIPCAD fellow Jennifer Bansard wins Best Poster Award, July-August 2016, Budapest, Hungary](#)
- [f. WIPCAD fellow and associates presented at EGPA in Utrecht, 24-26 August, The Netherlands](#)
- [g. DFG Site-visit to WIPCAD, 1-2 September 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)
- [h. WIPCAD fellow Diane Bombart in Uppsala, 11-16 September 2016, Sweden](#)
- [i. WIPCAD fellow Max Oliver Schmidt in Palermo, September 2016, Italy](#)
- [j. WIPCAD fellows Eva Schindler and Lydia Malmédie in Lausanne, 5-7 October 2016, Switzerland](#)
- [k. WIPCAD fellow Ina Radtke organized panel on refugee conference in Osnabrück, 6-8 October 2016, Germany](#)

2. Visiting fellows

- [a. Prof. Carmen Navarro Gómez visited WIPCAD, 20 June - 8 July 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)
- [b. Prof. Renate Meyer visited WIPCAD, 1-2 September 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)
- [c. Prof. Peer Laegreid visited WIPCAD, 1-2 September 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)
- [d. Prof. Andreas Ladner visited WIPCAD, 1-2 September 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)

3. Upcoming events

1. Group activities



[a. WIPCAD fellows take the Potsdam PhDay 2016, 7 July 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)

WIPCAD doctoral researcher [Basanta Thapa](#) won a Best Talk Award in the presentation session of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, co-organised and co-chaired by WIPCAD fellow [Ina Radtke](#). The [Potsdam PhDay](#) is a biannual day-long event hosted by the [Potsdam Graduate School](#) to connect doctoral researchers across the University of Potsdam and showcase their work. In the presentation sessions, five doctoral researchers from the same faculty compete against each other with ten-minute presentations on their dissertation projects. Basanta Thapa's [winning presentation](#) portrayed Big Data Analytics as a rational myth, framing an evening out with friends as a wicked problem and making ample use of Game of Thrones references. [\[more\]](#)

[b. WIPCAD fellow Basanta Thapa presents at summer school on „TechnoScienceSocieties“ in San Sebastián, July 2016, Spain](#)

WIPCAD doctoral researcher [Basanta Thapa](#) was invited to join the summer school ["Techno Science Societies: Between Myth Formation and Societal Structure"](#) organized by the Karlsruhe [Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis \(ITAS\)](#) from 18-22 July 2016 in Donostia-San Sebastián, Basque country. The summer school convened young researchers from a broad range of disciplines working in the area of Science and Technology Studies, who discussed their PhD projects. Here, Basanta Thapa talked about ["Big Data in Government: Of the Big Data Myth and Its Translations in Local Governments"](#), linking the hype around Big Data to meta-narratives of rationality, modernism, and positivism. [\[more\]](#)



[c. WIPCAD fellows at IPSA World Congress in Poznan, 23-28 July 2016, Poland](#)

WIPCAD was well represented with seven papers and one panel chair at the [24th World Congress of Political Science](#) on 23-28 July 2016 in Poznan, Poland. With almost 3000 participants and 633 sessions, the biannual conference of the International Political Science Association is among the largest conventions of the discipline.

WIPCAD doctoral researcher [Duygu Sonat](#) not only presented her paper "[Building trust takes more than two: the impact of program design on caseworker-beneficiary relationships](#)" in the panel "Making sense together: specialized knowledge and collective understanding in the policy process", but also chaired the panel "[Governing Across Jurisdictions](#)". [\[more\]](#)

[d. WIPCAD fellows participated in 2016 ECPR Summer School, July-August 2016, Budapest, Hungary](#)

As in previous sessions of the ECPR's methods trainings, several WIPCAD fellows took part in this year's summer school. After having been hosted in Ljubljana for several years, in 2016 the summer school was convened at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, from July 28th – August 12th.

[Eva Schindler](#) (4th cohort) took courses introducing participants to Ethnography and Field Research ([Xymena Kurowska](#), PhD, Central European University, Budapest), Issues in Political, Policy, and Organizational Ethnography and Participant Observation ([Prof. Dr. Dvora Yanow](#), Wageningen University) and Concepts and Approaches in Qualitative Data Analysis ([Marie-Hélène Paré](#), Universitat Oberta de Catalunya). Eva will draw extensively on these courses in the methodological work of her doctoral research. [\[more\]](#)



[e. WIPCAD fellow Jennifer Bansard wins best poster award, July-August 2016, Budapest, Hungary](#)

WIPCAD fellow [Jennifer Bansard](#) (4th cohort) participated in the poster contest of the 2016 [ECPR summer school](#) held in Budapest from July 28th – August 12th. Along with her WIPCAD colleagues, she had previously prepared a poster to visualize her dissertation topic for the upcoming evaluation of the research training group by the DFG (1-2 September 2016). Entering the ECPR's poster contest allowed her to get feedback on her research from other participants and instructors of the summer school. For her poster, Jennifer was awarded the first prize of the Dirk Berg-Schlosser award which is endowed with 250€. The second and third prize went to [Kaisa Kantola](#), University of Helsinki, and [Sophie Karow](#), Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf. See the full list of the award's winner on the [ECPR website](#). [\[more\]](#)

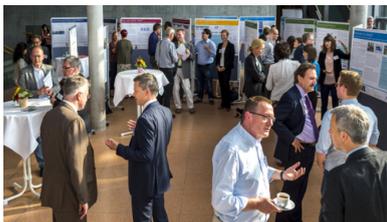
[f. WIPCAD fellow and associates presented at EGPA in Utrecht, 24-26 August, The Netherlands](#)

The annual conference of the [European Group for Public Administration \(EGPA\)](#) was this year organized in close collaboration with Utrecht University, where it took place from 24 to 26 August 2016. Doctoral researcher [Ina Radtke](#) presented the paper "Masters of crisis? The establishment of refugee coordinators in Germany" (co-authored with Thuriid Hustedt) in the study group V "Local and Regional Government" and functioned as a discussant in study group VI "Governance of public sector organizations". [\[more\]](#)



[g. DFG Site-visit to WIPCAD, 1-2 September 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)

DFG reviewers visited the Research Training Group WIPCAD in Potsdam on the 1st and the 2nd of September 2016. Following WIPCAD's application to the German Research Foundation (DFG) for its second funding period of 4 and a half years starting in April 2017, reviewers and DFG representatives came to the University of Potsdam (Campus Griebnitzsee) to visit the group. The guests were invited to attend presentations, a public poster session and discussions introducing WIPCAD's research program, the doctoral projects and collaborative links. Around 100 people attended the event, including representatives of the University, of the department and several guests from WIPCAD's partner institutions all over Europe. [\[more\]](#)



[h. WIPCAD fellow Diane Bombart in Uppsala, 11-16 September 2016, Sweden](#)

WIPCAD Fellow [Diane Bombart](#) took part in a workshop on Geometric Data Analysis (GDA) organized by the research unit Sociology of Education and Culture, Uppsala University. The lectures were mainly given by invited guest teachers: [Brigitte Le Roux](#), CEVIPOF/CNRS (Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po and [Université René Descartes Paris](#)) who worked on GDA with Jean-Paul Benzécri and Pierre Bourdieu, [Philippe Bonnet](#) (Université René Descartes Paris), [Mireille Gettler Summa](#), CEREMADE (Centre de Recherche en Mathématiques de la Décision, CNRS, [Université Paris-Dauphine](#)). This very well-organized workshop introduced Doctoral and Post-Doctoral researchers to the geometric paradigm of multivariate statistics and gave them the opportunity to connect, learn and exchange on some of the very useful but little used methods of GDA. Multiple Correspondence Analysis – one of the methods taught during the workshop – will be at the core of Diane's dissertation. [\[more\]](#)



[i. WIPCAD fellow Max Oliver Schmidt in Palermo, September 2016, Italy](#)

In September 2016, [WIPCAD fellow Max Oliver Schmidt](#) conducted exploratory fieldwork in Palermo, Italy. Oliver's project analyses social practices of local authorities and NGOs in the field of refugee admission. His project explores whether new rules such as new channels of entrance to social rights and resources are created on a local level and consequently, looks at how public organisations shape social order. Presently, he explores the fieldwork done and interplay between the different actors on the local level and investigates knowledge application processes. After the first field research in Berlin, Oliver went to Palermo, Italy. [\[more\]](#)



[j. WIPCAD fellows Eva Schindler and Lydia Malmedie in Lausanne, 5-7 October, Switzerland](#)

'Wicked problems', 'uncertainty' and 'Switzerland' do not seem to go together. And yet, this organized country is surprisingly complex as the two WIPCAD Fellows [Eva Schindler](#) and [Lydia Malmedie](#) discovered during a three-day Doctoral Workshop in Comparative Public Administration. Organized jointly by [IDHEAP University of Lausanne](#), [Netherlands Institute of Government \(NIG\)](#) and [WIPCAD](#), this workshop was a good opportunity to present and receive in-depth feedback on one's own research and learn about comparative approaches in Public Administration research from professors with expertise in local administrations, public management, the management of courts, as well as citizen participation in urban municipalities. [\[more\]](#)



[k. WIPCAD fellow Ina Radtke organized panel on refugee conference in Osnabrück, 6-8 October, Germany](#)

In her role as co-speaker of the working group "migration policy" of the [German Political Science Association](#), doctoral fellow [Ina Radtke](#) organized the panel "Policy and Organizational reforms in the multi-level-system of refugee policy" as part of the first conference of the newly founded network of refugee studies. The conference "[65 years Geneva Convention on Refugees](#)" took place at the [University of Osnabrück](#) from 6 to 8 October and aimed at a multi-disciplinary academic debate. [\[more\]](#)

2. Visiting fellows



[a. Prof. Carmen Navarro Gómez visited WIPCAD, 20 June - 8 July 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)

From 20 June to 08 July 2016, WIPCAD welcomed [Prof. Carmen Navarro Gómez](#) from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain, as visiting researcher. Her research is focused, among other things, in local government and public policy. During her stay she discussed with the doctoral researchers and gave some advices. Furthermore, she attended the [WIPCAD Lecture Series](#).



[b. Prof. Renate Meyer visited WIPCAD, 1-2 September 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)

[Prof. Renate Meyer](#), professor for organization studies at the Institute for Public Management at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria, attended the DFG on-site visit for follow-up funding.



[c. Prof. Peer Laegreid visited WIPCAD, 1-2 September 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)

[Prof. Peer Laegreid](#) is professor for public administration and organization theory at the University of Bergen, Norway. He attended the DFG on-site visit for follow-up funding.



[d. Prof. Andreas Ladner visited WIPCAD, 1-2 September 2016, Potsdam, Germany](#)

[Prof. Andreas Ladner](#), professor for administration and politics at the IDHEAP in Lausanne, Switzerland, attended the DFG on-site visit for follow-up funding.

3. Upcoming events

- 27-28 October 2016: [Author's Workshop](#) on Translation hosted by WIPCAD
- 9 November 2016: [WIPCAD Lecture Series](#) "Knowledge at WIPCAD"

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

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