SOG 2018 Conference
"Bureaucracy in Divided Times"
20 – 21 June 2018

University of Potsdam,
Chair for German Politics and Government

Public and scholarly attention has increasingly turned towards various novel and old 'societal divides' and conflicts, their causes and consequences. Among many, these include: (i) the *immigration divide* in which citizens are (increasingly) divided over the status of (temporary) residents and applicants for residency and asylum-seekers; (ii) the *digital divide* which separates the 'digital natives' from parts of the population that are either suffering from poor digital literacy or poor connections (or both), affecting the supposedly new ways of (digital) interactions between state authorities and society; (iii) the *spatial divide* in which metropolitan areas grow increasingly separate from more peripheral and rural areas, whether this is in economic, social or demographic ways; (iv) the *environmental* divide that exposes different groups in society to different types of risks; (v) the *social divide* due to growing inequality and the perception of 'being left behind'; and, finally, (vi) the *political* divide due to the collapse of established party systems and the rise of populism and parties endorsing 'illiberal democracy'.

Modern bureaucracies are central to adjustment processes in this world of new and 'old' divides. These divides, however, also represent a critical challenge to bureaucracy. They challenge their own traditional and well-established structures, procedures and mechanisms in policy formulation and service delivery. The aim of this workshop is to bring together scholars to discuss (1) how bureaucracy copes with key societal divides, both in terms of policy design and implementation, and (2) how bureaucratic organisations are challenged by these key societal divides and what wider implications these trends have for discussions of the role of bureaucracy in modern societies, including questions of legitimacy and accountability but also trust in government and democratic participation.

We invite papers that examine how bureaucratic structures and processes respond to old and new societal divides, which dynamics and mechanisms are at work, and with what consequences. Furthermore, we welcome papers that apply qualitative and quantitative methods, new empirical data and/or conceptual/theoretical developments.

Please send your abstract (max. 300 words) to ls-regieren@uni-potsdam.de
Deadline: 28 February 2018 (we will notify the paper givers by 05 March 2018)

Note: The SOG network will cover accommodation (up to two nights) and all meals and dinner; transportation costs are paid by the participants.