



Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations:
Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy



Newsletter N° 1 / 2016

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

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3. Upcoming events

1. Group activities



a. WIPCAD fellow Eva Schindler on research trip in Uganda, November 2015, Uganda

In November 2015, WIPCAD doctora fellow [Eva Schindler](#) conducted exploratory fieldwork in Uganda. Ms Schindler's research critically examines co-operation between local governments and community-based organizations in participatory governance mechanisms, which are often established in an attempt to improve municipal planning and service delivery but have a dismal track record. The central aim of the research is to understand how successful participatory governance mechanisms can be fostered. [\[more\]](#)

b. WIPCAD fellows present at German junior public administration researchers' conference, 11 February 2016, Hannover / Germany

On 11 February 2016, WIPCAD doctoral fellows [Ina Radtke](#) and [Basanta Thapa](#), along with associated doctoral fellows [Jana Bertels](#) and [Lena Schulze-Gabrechten](#), presented their work at the FoJuS annual conference. FoJuS (Forum Junge Staats-, Verwaltungs- und Policyforschung) is the junior researchers' association within the section „Policy Analysis and Public Administration Research“ of the [German Political Science Association \(DVPW\)](#).

c. WIPCAD at the ECPR Winter School: Doctoral fellows train in qualitative content analysis software and interpretive methods, 26 February - 04 March 2016, Bamberg / Germany

WIPCAD fellows [Jennifer Bansard](#), [Minh-Nguyet Le](#), and [Basanta Thapa](#) attended the 2016 [ECPR Winter School on Methods and Techniques](#), hosted this year at the [Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences](#). The Winter School offered 11 two-day preparatory courses, and 27 five-day main courses. The academic training and a lively social program attracted young researchers from all over Europe.

d. WIPCAD fellow Jennifer Bansard presents paper at the 57th annual conference of the International Studies Association, 16-19 March 2016, Atlanta / USA

From 16-19 March 2016, WIPCAD research fellow [Jennifer Bansard](#) attended [the 57th annual conference of the International Studies Association](#) (ISA) in Atlanta, Georgia (USA). The ISA is the leading organization for scholars of international relations and over 5600 researchers from all around the world attended this year's conference. The ISA features 28 thematic sub-units that promote interactions between researchers working on related issues within the greater realm of international studies. Beyond the general conference theme ("Exploring Peace"), the sections sponsored issue-specific panels.



e. WIPCAD doctoral fellow Minh-Nguyet Le meet the White House Presidential Innovation Fellows, March 2016, Washington D.C. / USA

WIPCAD fellow [Minh-Nguyet Le](#) was recently on a research visit the White House [Presidential Innovations Fellows](#) (PIFs) in Washington D.C. to get a closer glimpse of the activities of the "entrepreneurs-in-residence." The program was established in 2012 to bring innovation in-house to tackle projects at the convergence of technology, policy, and process. The PIFs work as an internal agency and are assigned to a variety of projects and initiatives with a number federal agencies ranging from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Food, Health and Human Services to the Drug Administration (FDA).

f. WIPCAD fellow Raffael Hanschmann pursues traineeship at European Commission, March-July 2016, Brussels / Belgium

Doctoral fellow [Raffael Hanschmann](#) pursues a traineeship at the General Secretariat of the European Commission in Brussels from March to July 2016. He is part of a unit concerned with the inter-institutional coordination of policy initiatives in several portfolios such as transport and research and innovation. Mr. Hanschmann hopes to gain valuable insights for his dissertation, which investigates how the recent economic crisis changed decision-making processes in EU climate policy.

g. Conference on organizational sociology: Knowledge and organisation between public, control and digitalisation, 14-15 April 2016, Potsdam / Germany

On 14 and 15 April 2016, the DGS (German Society for Organizational Sociology) held its spring symposium in Potsdaml, organized by WIPCAD-member [Prof. Maja](#)

[Apelt](#). It focused on the relationship between knowledge and organization in three different areas: organization and the public, organizational knowledge and regulation as well as organizational knowledge and digitalization.

h. WIPCAD fellows discuss the idea of better regulation with the Federal Chancellery, 28 April 2016, Potsdam / Germany

On 28 April 2016, doctoral fellows from WIPCAD as well as other departments from the University of Potsdam discussed the idea of better and smarter regulation with a representative from the Federal Chancellery, on invitation of WIPCAD doctoral fellow [Alexander Gaus](#). The meeting held at Campus Griebnitzsee covered a range of topics from the influence of international organizations such as the OECD on national regulation to the role of coordination between ministries during the development of regulations and laws that cut across the boundaries of ministries.

i. Author's Workshop on Translation hosted by WIPCAD, 27-28 October 2016, Potsdam / Germany

The notion of translation is rapidly gaining in salience within Political Science, Organizational Studies, Public Administration and International Relations scholarship. The aim of this workshop is to finalize a manuscript for an edited volume on "Translation in World Politics" edited by WIPCAD Postdoctoral researcher [Dr. Alejandro Esguerra](#) and Dr. Tobias Berger (Institute for the Human Sciences, Vienna). The book proposal is currently under review with Routledge's Series on global cooperation. A first workshop took place at the [Käte Hamburger Kolleg /Centre for Global Cooperation Research](#) in October 2015.

j. WIPCAD fellow Jennifer Bansard publishes peer-reviewed article on transnational municipal climate networks

WIPCAD doctoral fellow [Jennifer Bansard](#) recently published a peer-reviewed article titled "Cities to the rescue? Assessing the performance of transnational municipal networks in global climate governance" in *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* (INEA). It is available as an "online first" publication under open access.

2. Visiting fellows



a. Prof. Stephen Osborne visited WIPCAD, 25-27 January 2016, Potsdam / Germany

From 25-27 January 2016, WIPCAD welcomed [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 gave a public lecture on "The SERVICE framework - towards resilient and sustainable public services in the twenty-first century" within the [WIPCAD lecture series](#) and offered a Workshop on academic career planning for doctoral fellows.

b. Prof. Barbara Czarniawska visits WIPCAD, 24 April - 02 May 2016, Potsdam / Germany

[Prof. Barbara Czarniawska](#), best known for her highly influential research on the travel of ideas and translation, was a guest researcher at WIPCAD during the week of 25 April. Her input was much appreciated and during her stay she was in high demand. She delivered the first [WIPCAD lecture](#) of the Summer Semester on 27 April 2016 on "University Fashions" and advised Doctoral Researchers on their individual projects in one-to-one appointments. In addition, she offered a 90-minute methods workshop. At the example of three different studies, the group of 14 participants learned about the three ways to study the translation of ideas and practices: 1. To be in a place where a global idea is translated into practices; 2. follow translations of documents and objects; 3. follow objects and quasi objects themselves.



c. Prof. Janine Wedel visited WIPCAD, 11 May 2016, Potsdam / Germany

On 17 May 2016, [Janine Wedel](#) held a [WIPCAD lecture](#) on "The role of influence elites and flexible power brokers in policy and governance". Prof. Wedel is an anthropologist by training and currently holds several chairs of public policy at, for example, George Mason University in Virginia, United States and the [Hertie School of Governance in Berlin](#), Germany. In her lecture she spoke a new breed of influence elites and power brokers that emerged over the past several decades. They operate in the shadow and hold sway through informal, flexible, and unaccountable means and use consulting firms, think tanks,

nonprofits and "grassroots organizations" as vehicles of influence, not to mention the internet and social media. Her lecture was particularly interesting as her research is extraordinary, inquisitive and unique. She outlined serious real-world implications for democratic rule all over the world as well as methodological implications for social science research.

3. Upcoming events

- 25 May 2016: [WIPCAD Lecture Series](#) with [Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ortwin Renn](#) "How to cope with complex risks: New approaches to Risk Governance"
- 08 June 2016: [WIPCAD Lecture Series](#) with [Sjors Overman](#) "Great expectations of autonomous agencies"
- 20 June - 08 July 2015: [Prof. Dr. Carmen Navarro Gómez](#) visits WIPCAD
- 22 June 2016: [WIPCAD Lecture Series](#) with [Prof. Dr. Carmen Navarro Gómez](#) "Local democracy in times of austerity: For better or worse?"
- 29 June 2016: [WIPCAD Lecture Series](#) with [Prof. Dr. Erik-Hans Klijn](#) "The interplay of trust and network management in network governance"
- 06 July 2016: [WIPCAD Lecture Series](#) with [Prof. Bas Denters](#) "Public Administration: Can we bring citizens back in?"
- 07 July 2016: [PhDay](#) the Potsdam Graduate School
- 20 July 2016: [WIPCAD Lecture Series](#) with [Dr. Alejandro Esquerro](#) "Innovation in science policy organizations"
- 01-02 September 2016: [Prof. Renate Meyer](#) visits WIPCAD
- 13-16 September 2016: Joint PhD Training School of WIPCAD, COST-LocRef, ECPR-EUROLOC in Potsdam
- 27-28 October 2016: [Author's Workshop](#) on Translation hosted by WIPCAD

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