WHAT PEOPLE KNOW AND THINK

THE ROLE OF ATTITUDES AND INFORMATION IN THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING AND POLICY USE

BAMBERG GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2017

09:00-09:30 REGISTRATION

09:30-10:00 INTRODUCTION
How Attitudes and Information Bridge the Gap Between Policy Design and Take-up
Isabel Winnwa University of Bamberg
Gundula Zoch University of Bamberg

//S01 10:00-11:00 KEYNOTE I
Boost vs. Nudge - A Conceptual Distinction Relevant for Behavioural Policy-Making
Till Grüne-Yanoff Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

11:00-11:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK

//S02 11:30-12:30 Taking Stock and Looking Forward: What Do We Know About the Role of Attitudes and Information?
Accommodating Preferences and Information in Parental Leave and Childcare Choices
Pia Schober University of Tübingen

Gender Frames in the EU Referendum Campaigns: What is the Future Direction of Travel for Equal Rights in Post-Brexit Britain?
Roberta Guerrina University of Surrey

12:30-13:30 LUNCH

//S03 13:30-15:00 Attitudes and Information in the Field of Education
Information and Social Inequality in Education: Evidence from Two Field Experiments
Carlo Barone Sciences Po, Paris

Public Opinion on Policy and Budgetary Trade-offs in European Welfare States
Erik Neimanns University of Konstanz

//S04 15:00-16:00 REFRESHMENT BREAK WITH POSTER ROUND
Information and Attitudes from Multidisciplinary Perspectives
Poster Presentations by: Tereza Cahlikova, Kerstin Hoenig, Alexandra Ils, Borbála Kovács, Agata Maria Kraj, Veronica Polin, Daniel Rasch, Marjolijn De Wilde, Nadja Wehl, Gundula Zoch

//S05 16:00-18:00 Attitudes and Work-Family Policies - From Individuals to Institutions
Attitudes, Work-Family Policies, and the Wage Penalty for Motherhood in Comparative Perspective
Michelle Budig University of Massachusetts

Evidence Concerning Gender Ideologies and Policy-Culture Gaps
Daniela Grunow Goethe University Frankfurt

As You Like It? Attitudes Towards Mothers’ Employment and Work-Family Policy Responsiveness
Agnes Blome WZB, Berlin Social Science Center

18:00-18:30 Final Thoughts on Researching Information and Attitudes

19:30 CONFERENCE DINNER
FRIDAY, 17 MARCH 2017

//S06 09:30-10:30 KEYNOTE II
The Art of Good Decision Making: In an Uncertain World, We Need both Brains and Guts
Wolfgang Gaissmaier University of Konstanz

10:30-10:45 REFRESHMENT BREAK

//S07 10:45-12:15 Europe and its Crises: Changing Public Attitudes?
Party Cues and Public Attitudes Towards Trade Agreements: The Case of TTIP
Bernd Schlipphak University of Münster
The Dynamics of Policy Support - How the European Refugee Crisis Affects Attitudes Towards Migration
Elias Naumann University of Mannheim

12:15-13:30 LUNCH

//S08 13:30-14:30 The Role of Information for Policy Take-up: The Use of Social Benefits and Prevention Measures
Information Strategies Concerning Parenting, Need for Parenting Support and Use of Parenting Support. Findings from the 3rd ifb Parenting Support Survey
Regina Neumann State Institute for Family Research at the University of Bamberg

What Stops Dutch Households from Taking Up Much Needed Benefits
Caren Tempelman SEO Amsterdam Economics

//S09 14:30-16:00 From Voters to Policies - Attitudes and Information in Political Processes
Political Institutions and Policy Representation in Europe
Dimiter Toshkov Leiden University
When Party and Issue Preferences Clash: Selective Exposure and Attitudinal Depolarization
Michael Meffert Leiden University
Protest: The Virtue of Comparison
Jacqueliuen van Stekelenburg VU University, Amsterdam

16:00-16:30 CONCLUSION
Avenues for Future (Interdisciplinary) Research

WHAT PEOPLE KNOW AND THINK: THE ROLE OF ATTITUDES AND INFORMATION IN THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING AND POLICY USE
The Uptake of e-Participation and e-Democracy in Switzerland: Opportunities and Challenges Related to Electronic Citizen Participation

Tereza Cahlikova
University of Lausanne

Mothers and Fathers in Newspaper Articles: An Insight into the Media Discourse Surrounding Parenthood and Family Policies

Alexandra Ils
Goethe University Frankfurt

Explaining Household-Level Childcare Arrangements: The Hierarchies of Care Ideals Framework

Borbála Kovács
Central European University

Taxation for Italian People: A Political Issue? Evidences from Focus Groups

Veronica Polin
University of Verona

Decision-Makers and Their Need for Information: Which Types of Informational Input Convince Decision-Makers?

Daniel Rasch
Ruhr-University Bochum
The Effect of Welfare State Attitudes on Social Assistance Practice

Marjolijn De Wilde
University of Antwerp

Short Term and Long Term Effects of Social Capital in the Transition to Vocational Training in Germany

Kerstin Hoenig
LifBi, University of Bamberg

Liberal Transformations and Conservative Amplifications: Implicit Gender Bias and Party Membership in Germany and Poland

Agata Maria Kraj
University of Bamberg

Expansion of Childcare Services and Changing Attitudes of Parents in East & West Germany

Gundula Zoch
University of Bamberg

Going Beyond Values Versus Self-Interest: Testing Three Types of Attitude Change After Employment Status Changed

Nadja Wehl
University of Bamberg
WHAT IMPACTS INDIVIDUAL USE OF SOCIAL POLICIES? And how are policies decided upon in the first place? Which role do attitudes and information of population and policy makers play? Over the past decades, many European countries have increasingly invested in social policies to facilitate the combination of employment and family. However, previous social science research has, on the one hand, focused on the structural and institutional level of policy-making, comparing policy decisions over time and across countries to decipher patterns, similarities or differences. On the other hand, studies have predominantly investigated whether changes in family policy, such as parental leave legislations and the provision of state-subsidized childcare services, have removed disincentives to female labour supply. However, less is known about the role of attitudes and information when it comes to political decision-making and use of implemented social policies.

TO-DATE, THE INFLUENCE OF ATTITUDES AND INFORMATION on the use of family policies such as formal childcare services or length of leave take-up, particularly for fathers, is well assumed. However, only few studies provide empirical evidence on how individual attitudes as well as relevant information on availability or access conditions may moderate the individual use of policies. Moreover, only few studies have investigated whether and through which channels family policy legislation may also alter social attitudes and norms in the short-term. Against the well documented background of socio-economic disparities in use as well as the heterogeneous impact of family policies on parental employment behaviour, this rather comes as a surprise.
RESEARCH GAP with regard to the role of information and attitudes in the process of political decision making itself. Yet it can be assumed that attitudes and the availability of information have a significant impact on actors and decision-making processes. Again, there is not much research on how attitudes of population and political actors, as well as information through media and other channels, might affect party and government positions on social policy, and family policy in particular. Little is known especially about how this influences actors’ subsequent strategies in policy-making processes. Family policy has long been a key concern for national governments, and is increasingly important to policy-makers in the European Union. However, research has not sufficiently explored how attitudes, such as national work-care norms, affect policy-makers positions and strategies and alter the European process of family policy-making.

WE WISH TO CONNECT RESEARCHERS of different disciplines and methodological backgrounds in a workshop to discuss these questions and see how we can jointly improve research: on the importance of attitudes and available information in the context of access and use of family policies as well as the decision-making process of such policies on the national and European level. Our workshop aims to encourage a debate about where research stands, what current theoretical frameworks as well as methods can and cannot achieve and where our research should head.
Which role do attitudes and information
play in your scientific work/research?
I think both concepts play an important role in my research on negotiation dynamics in the European Union. The attitudes of policy-makers shape their perception of the issues they discuss and steer negotiations in a certain direction. The availability or lack of information about the issues, and interestingly also about the attitudes of others towards the issue, have a similar impact on negotiation dynamics. After all, policy-makers are humans, their decision-making performances are based on their capabilities, both emotional and cognitive. This makes European policy-making a complex process of actors debating perceptions and attitudes within a context of limited information. My intent is to disentangle these dynamics and understand how the multitude of individual perspectives is merged into a coherent, mutually acceptable policy decision.
My research focuses on the impact of social policy interventions on social inequalities across the life course. Both attitudes and information play an important role as they influence access, use and hence the outcomes of various policies. For example, parental employment decisions and take-up of family policies such as parental leave or formal childcare depends on parents’ work-care preferences and information on available policy support as well as relevant access conditions. At the same time, policy take-up itself might induce individual attitude change over the life-course. Therefore, available information as well as individual attitudes seem to play a crucial role to understand the impact of social policy interventions on socio-economic inequalities.
Till Grüne-Yanoff
Institution: Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm
Research Field: Philosophy
Research Interests: Philosophy of science, decision theory, formal models of preference consistency and preference change, discussion of the evaluation of evidence in policy-making

I am interested in how preferences and other motivational attitudes are modeled in the social sciences. In particular, I investigate how one can model preference change, both as a descriptively accurate as well as a normatively valid model. I am also interested in how preferences can be the basis for normative judgments about a person’s (or a group’s) well-being, when these preferences are not fully rationally formed or contain mistakes from flawed reasoning or biased deliberation. This might open up an opportunity for policy intervention and it raises interesting questions about how well-being (in this case as the objective of the policy intervention) can then be determined.
In my research field of family sociology, it is widely recognised that attitudes, for instance towards parental careers and childcare arrangements, vary considerably between different population groups within and across countries.

By contrast, differences in levels of knowledge or information have received less attention and are frequently ignored in the theoretical and empirical analysis. Even though there are still many open questions regarding social change in attitudes and interdependence with institutions, in my view the research gap is even greater with respect to the roles which knowledge and information transmission play for the choices individuals make over the life course.
I make information experiments where I try to correct information biases to assess their effects on educational inequalities.
Erik Neimanns
Institution: University of Konstanz
Research Field: Economics
Research Interests: Public opinion and the politics of social investment, link between welfare state and education policies, early childhood education and care

On the one hand, I am interested in the macro- and micro-level determinants of attitudes towards education and social policies to figure out which social groups in which institutional contexts support and oppose policy reforms. This sheds light on potential cleavages within the public and on the potential for coalition formation between different social groups.

On the other hand, knowing public attitudes can help in evaluating the degree of governments’ responsiveness towards the public in education and social policy making. I aim to identify under which circumstances reforms cater to the median voter, specific partisan constituencies, or not at all to public demands.
The attitudes and perceptions of public officials and politicians seem to play the decisive role in the process of public sector digitalisation in Switzerland. Lack of political support is at present a deal-breaker for initiatives falling under the scope of e-Participation and e-Democracy. Positive attitudes to digital initiatives seem to be connected, on the one hand, to education and professional background and, on the other, to personal ambition of particular actors that wish to profile themselves as « pioneers » in the field. The facilitation of access to public services and decision-making for citizens comes only as a secondary argument. It is likely that a change in paradigm is necessary in order to introduce e-Democracy and e-Participation in a more coherent and efficient way. In the framework of my research, the questions related to attitudes that are to be answered are two-fold: What are the best possible ways to measure and analyse attitudes and how are the latter formed.
My research focuses on the impact of social capital in education. Access to information through socialties is one of the key elements of social capital, and I am interested in the impact this information has on actors’ educational decisions.
I recently finished my PhD on the role and effects of information and frames for decision-making in the European Union. More precisely, the effects of information and frames used by lobbyists to convince European decision-makers to adopt the lobbyists’ goals into policies. I am currently working on a book with Routledge that will cover this aspect. I haven’t work with attitudes so far but I am planning to start a bigger research project on information, frames and attitudes in regard to the recent challenges to security policy and how it is communicated between society and political leaders in different countries.
**Marjolijn De Wilde**  
Institution: University of Antwerp  
Research Field: Sociology  
Research Interests: Works in institution that focuses on: Adequacy of active labour market policy, intergenerational income inequalities, the redistributive impact of family policy and the socioeconomic circumstances of migrants

**Borbála Kovács**  
Institution: Central European University  
Research Field: Political Science  
Research Interests: Family policy analysis, informality and welfare state change and the sociology of childcare in Central and Eastern Europe

**Agata Maria Kraj**  
Institution: Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Bamberg  
Research Field: Political Science / Psychology  
Research Interests: Stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination, implicit stereotypes, cognitive biases, electoral politics, candidate selection, voting, political parties, political psychology

**Veronica Polin**  
Institution: University of Verona  
Research Field: Economics  
Research Interests: Poverty and inequality, redistribution, micro-simulation models, microcredit, tax evasion, fiscal sociology

**Nadja Wehl**  
Institution: Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Bamberg  
Research Field: Political Science  
Research Interests: (Welfare) policy attitudes, political psychology, political socialization, labor markets, causality and causal analysis, panel and multilevel modeling

**Alexandra Ils**  
Institution: Goethe University Frankfurt  
Research Field: Sociology  
Research Interests: Quantitative social research, communication and media, gender, gender equality, parental involvement, parental care
In my research, we look at people’s attitudes as one factor influencing policy-making. In other words, in contrast to studies that find that attitudes change as a consequence of new policies, we assume that policy-makers respond to (changed) attitudes in the population.
Michelle J. Budig  
Institution: University of Massachusetts  
Research Field: Sociology  
Research Interests: Gender and family status inequality in labor markets, work and family reconciliation policies and women's labour market outcomes and family formation patterns, predictors of women's entrepreneurship in westernized countries, cross-national comparison and quantitative methods

Daniela Grunow  
Institution: Goethe University Frankfurt  
Research Field: Sociology  
Research Interests: Interaction of paid work, domestic work and gender relations in different welfare states, institutional and cultural change in international comparative perspective, social stratification and life-course research, quantitative and qualitative longitudinal methods
Mostly, I have been, and still am, interested in the effect of elite communication on citizens’ attitudes.

Currently, I focus on the interface between international and domestic politics in this regard – how do elites frame international / global politics in order to sustain or gain domestic support for their policies? More specifically, I am analyzing whether and how governing / populist elites are able to threaten citizens into becoming more conservative and into supporting authoritarian policies by referring to threats from beyond the nation state. To fully explain what is going on, I combine elite cueing approaches from political communication with social psychology research on the effects of threat and risk perception.
Elias Naumann
Institution: University of Mannheim
Research Field: Sociology
Research Interests: Political sociology and comparative political economy, impact of societal developments on attitude formation and attitudinal change, causal analysis and innovative (experimental) research designs

Attitudes - i.e. policy preferences and in particular support for the welfare state but also social preferences more general like altruism, reciprocity or inequality aversion - are the main focus of my research. Do social groups have different attitudes?

How do socio-economic developments shape individual attitudes and how can we explain individual attitude change?

In the process of attitude formation and change, information on these socio-economic developments and how they are framed play a crucial role.
In my research, the overarching question is how parenting support offers and projects can be designed in a manner that corresponds best to parents’ needs. For this purpose, I collected data about parents’ attitudes towards parenthood, information strategies and preferences concerning family life and parenting to enable parenting support providers to adjust their offers and projects correspondingly. Furthermore, my research is about parents’ preferences concerning family support offers and the specific use of parenting support offers.
Caren Tempelman
Institution: SEO Amsterdam Economics
Research Field: Economics
Research Interests: Health inequalities in labour force participation, determinants of (non) take-up of welfare benefits, distribution models for social security and health insurers, costs and benefits analysis as well as policy evaluation and impact analysis

My research often focusses on individuals. Attitudes and information play an important role as they influence individual behaviour. For example, the effect of labour market policies highly depends on a persons’ motivation and take up of benefits is conditional on people knowing allowances exist.
In my research, I study the impact of public attitudes and opinions on policy making. I grapple with questions such as ‘Are the wishes of the public reflected in public policies?’, ‘When do the citizens get the policies that they want?’, and ‘What is the role of political parties in this process?’

Clearly, these are rather fundamental questions for evaluating and understanding democratic politics, and they are difficult to answer. First, we don’t have systematic, fine-grained and reliable measures of the policy-relevant attitudes of citizens nor of the state of public policies. A big part of my work goes into identifying relevant data sources and constructing new measures of these phenomena. Second, even with perfect data, it is very hard to disentangle the causal impact of public opinion on policy from other potentially important forces, such as interest group influence, party preferences, or changing socio-economic conditions. To address this challenge, I employ a variety of research designs and approaches ranging from time-series statistical analyses to process-tracing case studies. As the impact of public attitudes on public policy is rarely direct, I also study how it is being moderated by political institutions and patterns of party government.
Information is the currency of politics, determining influence and power.

In my research, I try to understand how individual citizens perceive politics, form expectations and attitudes, and make their decisions by investigating the interplay of external or contextual information sources, internal predispositions, and situational processing goals. External messages from institutions, social groups, media, and personal networks prime and activate individual predispositions such as core beliefs, social identities, and other existing cognitions and affective reactions. The immediate processing goal, basically ‘accuracy’ or ‘defense’, along with a more or less automatic reliance on heuristics, then determines how they shape the attitudinal outcomes.
The Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences was established in 2010 to create an innovative working and learning environment for exceptionally qualified doctoral researchers.

In the disciplines of Sociology, Political Science, Psychology and Educational Science, the Graduate School fosters and promotes the next generation of researchers in their methodologically oriented studies.

As a multidisciplinary graduate school, Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences offers a structured programme of training and education for doctoral researchers in the Faculties of Social Sciences, Economics, Business Administration and Human Sciences. While firmly anchored in one academic discipline, doctoral students are encouraged to search for innovative solutions to their research problems beyond the confines of a single subject. A tailored and flexible doctoral training in courses on the frontiers of subject-specific knowledge, on research methods and on professional skills supports doctoral students who aim for international excellence both in their aspirations and in their work.

Workshops such as “WHAT PEOPLE KNOW AND THINK: The Role of Attitudes and Information in the Process of Political Decision-Making and Policy Use” are the result of a course programme that is personalized and based on an individual assessment of its students’ prior education and research needs.
Web: www.uni-bamberg.de/bagss

Twitter: @BAGSS5

Facebook: @bagssbamberg
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Refreshment Breaks**
In the morning breaks and afternoon breaks, coffee, soft drinks and small snacks, e.g. pretzels, small cakes, are offered in the hallway in front of room FG1/00.06

**Wi-Fi**
Access Point: Policy-Workshop
Password: InfAtt2017

**Working Space**
Should you are looking for a quiet space to check your e-mails on you tablet or laptop, feel free to use the working space at FMA room 00.08 (first on the right). Please note that we don't lock the door or keep a watch, so make sure to leave no valuables in the room.

**Public Transportation**
The most frequent bus connections from the conference venue to the city centre are busses number 901, 907, 915 and 931. They leave from either Feldkirchenstraße or Kloster-Banz-Straße and stop at the train station, Luitpoldstraße and at the central bus station (ZOB).
Bus tickets are available from the bus driver. The single fare is EUR 1.90. Alternatively, you could get a multi-trip ticket for four trips which costs EUR 6.50. Please note that you have to pay in cash at the bus driver's. For bus schedules check www.vgn.de or aks on the reception.

**Notice of Photography**
Photography will take place during the conference. The photographs will be used by Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences for the purpose of promoting its activities and may be published on its website, social media channels and in other promotional materials for the graduate school. If you do not wish to appear in the photographs please inform our photographer Katrin Bernsdorff (katrin.bernsdorff@uni-bamberg.de).
Conference Venue
Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences
University of Bamberg
Feldkirchenstraße 21, Wing FG1, 96052
Bamberg
Conference Room: FG1/00.08

Conference Dinner
Thursday, 16 March
19:30 Restaurant Salino
Schillerplatz 11, 96047 Bamberg
PARTICIPANTS LIST

B

Carlo Barone Sciences Po Paris //S03
Agnes Blome WZB, Berlin Social Science Center //S05
Sandra Buchholz University of Bamberg
Michelle Budig University of Massachusetts //S05

C

Tereza Cahlikova University of Lausanne //S04

D

Marjolijn De Wilde University of Antwerp //S04

E

Henriette Engelhardt-Wölfler University of Bamberg

G

Wolfgang Gaissmaier University of Konstanz //S06
Till Grüne-Yanoff Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm //S01
Daniela Grunow Goethe University Frankfurt //S05
Roberta Guerrina University of Surrey //S02

H

Stefanie Heyne LMU Munich
Kerstin Hoenig Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories //S04
Irina Hondralis University of Bamberg

I

Alexandra Ils Goethe University Frankfurt //S04

K

Borbála Kovács Central European University //S04
Agata Maria Kraj University of Bamberg //S04
Michael Meffert Leiden University //S09

Elias Naumann University of Mannheim //S07
Erik Neimanns University of Konstanz //S03
Regina Neumann State Institute for Family Research, University of Bamberg //S08
Sebastian Neumann University of Bamberg

Veronica Polin University of Verona //S04

Daniel Rasch Ruhr-University Bochum //S04
Tobias Rausch University of Bamberg
Iris Reus University of Bamberg

Steffen Schindler University of Bamberg
Bernd Schlipphak University of Münster //S07
Pia Schober University of Tübingen //S02
Jacquelines van Stekelenburg VU University, Amsterdam //S09

Caren Tempelman SEO Amsterdam Economics //S08
Dimiter Toshkov Leiden University //S09

Nadja Weh University of Bamberg //S04
Isabel Winnwa University of Bamberg //HOST

Gundula Zoch University of Bamberg //HOST