

BAMBERG / GERMANY. 17 - 18 FEBRUARY 2016.

III. INTERNAL BAGSS CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
ABSTRACT VOLUME



BAMBERG GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

FOREWORD





The Internal BAGSS Conference (IBC) is an important part of the School's annual calendar. It is one of the occasions where all graduate students across all four Pillars get together, present their papers, comment on each other's work and learn from one another. It is a decidedly inter-disciplinary event.

This format is attractive for several reasons: in a rapidly growing School it is difficult to keep track of what everyone else is doing. Therefore, the IBC is a convenient place to get an overview over your colleagues' work. You gain information about the research and methods they are using and start thinking whether a particular method and approach would be useful for your own project. Obviously, this is one of the most important opportunities to arrange follow-up meetings.

You also have the opportunity to present your own papers. The IBC is a very useful place to try out the presentations you are planning to deliver at national or international conferences during the course of the year. Practice is a very important condition for successful presentations when external high profile people are in your audience. It is not only possible to learn about potential partners for co-authorships and other forms of academic collaboration, but you also get to know supervisors from other Pillars.

Not least, the IBC is meant to be a pleasant event where all members, graduate students, associate members of the School and supervisors, have a chance to cultivate those informal links that can help you get through the ups and downs of a dissertation project.

Personally, I have always enjoyed listening to the wide range of impressive presentations. I have learnt a lot through sitting on IBC panels – about fellow members of the School and their research.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to the organisers who have worked so hard to make this conference happen.

I wish all of you an enjoyable and successful conference.

Thomas Saalfeld.

III.
INTERNAL
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CONFERENCE



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**ABSTRACT
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SESSION 01



Wednesday, 17 February 2016
09:30 - 10:40

EUROPEAN WELFARE STATES: RECENT TRENDS

CHAIR:

Prof. Dr. Henriette Engelhardt-Wölfler

PRESENTATIONS:

Sophie Psihoda

Pathways to Retirement from a European Perspective - Differences and Similarities

Nadja Wehl

Recent Developments in Propensity Score Matching. An Application to Welfare State Attitudes



Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:
Sociology

DISSERTATION PROJECT :
Retirement Pathways and Social Inequalities from a European Perspective

PRESENTATION:

Pathways to Retirement from a European Perspective - Differences and Similarities

Since the 1990s, governments across Europe have enacted a series of pension policy reforms, which increased the diversity of pathways to retirement as well as the occurrence of the decoupling of the withdrawal from work and the beginning of pension receipt. From a sociological perspective these two developments become interesting agendas for research due to the social inequalities, in particular income inequalities, which occur as a consequence of the different retirement pathways. On the one hand social inequalities are expected to be the result of individual determinants such as sex, health status, occupation, financial and family obligation or partnership, which drive the decision to withdraw from work. On the other hand social inequalities are also expected to be the result of country specific institutional arrangements of the labour market, the welfare and pension system.

In my dissertation project I aim to analyse the individual determinants and the institutional contextual causes affecting different pathways to retirement as well as the social and income inequalities resulting from these different pathways across European countries. The theoretical basis for my research consists of the theory of the institutional life-course, theories on welfare state regimes, and theories on social inequality. For my empirical analysis I use the SHARELIFE data set (Share wave 3), which consists of 13 European countries. The first step of my empirical work will be descriptive: First, I will describe the form and duration of retirement pathways by applying sequence analysis. Second, after clustering the pathways I will provide insight on the appearance of clusters across the 13 European countries as well as on the country-specific and/or country-independent composition of the individual determinants of the people in each pathway. In the second step of my empirical work I will analyse the income inequalities in the collection of pension benefits as a result of different retirement pathways within and across countries. By this I aim to explore in which ways the institutional arrangements of the countries' welfare and pension systems exacerbate or mitigate income inequalities resulting of different retirement pathways and employment biographies.



Regular fellow since summer 2015

FIELD:

Political Science

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

Causality of Insider-Outsider Differences in Social Policy Attitudes Across Welfare States

PRESENTATION:

Recent Developments in Propensity Score Matching. An Application to Welfare State Attitudes

Suppose you want to estimate the causal effect of X on Y . The easiest way would be to compare Y in a) the treatment group, where X is present ($X=1$) and b) the control group, where X is not present ($X=0$). However, doing so probably leads to a biased causal effect estimation. It is possible that treatment and control units differ in pre-treatment characteristics, that influence the chance of getting the treatment ($P(X=1)$) as well as the outcome (Y). One solution could be to compare only units with similar pre-treatment characteristics. However, as soon as the vector of pre-treatment characteristics gets high-dimensional, this solution becomes problematic. However, Rosenbaum and Rubin (1983) showed that it is not necessary to condition on all pre-treatment characteristics. It suffices to condition on the „Propensity Score“, i.e. the probability of getting treatment. Thus, once we know the true Propensity Score, our causal effect estimation is unbiased. Unfortunately, in observational studies, the true(!) Propensity Score is never known, but has to be estimated. This fact leads to several complications, so that Propensity Score Matching might actually increase the bias of the causal effect (King/Nielsen 2015). Responding to this kind of criticism, there are several new approaches that try to ensure the goal of Propensity Score Matching: balance (i.e. no differences between treatment and control group) in pre-treatment characteristics. Generally, they do so by re-weighting the Propensity Score (e.g. Imai/Ratkovic 2014) or creating balance without the Propensity Score - „detour“ (e.g. Hainmueller 2012). Another complication is bias due to missing data. This complication can be handled with different approaches, too. Here, I will show several of these new developments around Propensity Score Matching. Using data from the European Social Survey, I will apply these methods to the question my research is focused on: is employment status causally related to welfare state attitudes?

SESSION 02



Wednesday, 17 February 2016
11:00 - 12:40

TEACHING, LEARNING AND CHEATING

CHAIR:

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kristen

PRESENTATIONS:

Dorothea Taube

Teacher Professionalisation in Understanding Globalisation

Daniel Sewasew

The Development of Gender Differences in Math Competence Among
Secondary School Students

Diana Klose

Detecting Cheating Behavior in Unproctored Psychological Assessment

02

DOROTHEA TAUBE



Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:
Sociology

DISSERTATION PROJECT :
Teacher Professionalisation in Understanding Globalization. Exploring Teachers' Epistemological Belief

PRESENTATION:

Teacher Professionalisation in Understanding Globalisation

People all over the world experience the increased global interconnectedness in their everyday lives. Global education aims at triggering peoples' urge to understand, reflect and engage in global issues and worldwide challenges. For some years now, a lively debate on the implementation of global education in school curricula has been taking place. However, little consideration has been given to the competence training of teachers in this field. According to the model of teachers' professional competence (Baumert and Kunter 2006), epistemological views and beliefs are one important factor. The research project examines the question of how individual learning processes shape teachers' epistemological views of the world society. The project will be conducted as a hypothesis generating study. Data will be collected through narrative interviews which are then analysed through the Documentary Method (Bohnsack 2007; Nohl 2010).

02

DANIEL SEWASEW



Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:

Psychology

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

The Development of Gender Differences in Math Competence Among Secondary School Students

PRESENTATION:

The Development of Gender Differences in Math Competence Among Secondary School Students

Although gender differences in math competencies are well documented in the research literature, longitudinal studies on this topic are scarce. Previous studies mostly have a cross-sectional design and no conclusive evidence concerning the causal relations was given (Schiefele, 1998). Only recently, longitudinal educational large-scale assessment provided the data base to examine trajectories. With the present study, we want to close this research gap concerning gender differences in math competencies over time. In Germany, research on the consistency or stability of differences in math competencies within and across gender in secondary school age is inconclusive. Thus, we quantify gender differences in math competence in the longitudinal run and explain them with relevant covariates like math interest and self-concept.


The main aim of this study is to investigate the development of gender differences in math competencies in secondary education from Grade 5 to 9 in a longitudinal study. In more detail, the following research questions will be addressed:

1) Is the achievement gap between boys and girls in math closing or widening in the course of secondary education? How is the change in mathematical competencies in both gender groups? Is there a linear or non-linear growth in the gender groups? What about the slope of the growth function?

2) The first set of questions addressed differences in the mean structure. According to the Feingold hypothesis (1992), gender differences also exist in the variances. More precisely, boys are overrepresented at both ends of the ability distribution and the variance should be larger for boys than for girls. Therefore, we pay close attention to variance differences at the different time points of the longitudinal study.

3) A constant decline in math interest has been repeatedly shown, but is this decline stronger for girls than boys? To what extent is a gender difference in interest followed or preceded by gender differences in math achievement within a gender group?

4) Self-concept differences in math across gender groups could be a second factor accounting for gender differences in math achievement. Thus, the same question applies, to what extent is a gender difference in self-concept followed or preceded by gender differences in math achievement?

02	DIANA KLOSE	
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Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:
Psychology

DISSERTATION PROJECT :
Ambulatory Assessment: a Theoretical Framework, Psychometric Modeling and Substantial Issues in the Assessment of Cognitive Abilities

PRESENTATION:

Detecting Cheating Behaviour in Unproctored Psychological Assessment

Ambulatory assessment is seen as a powerful tool for future psychological research because it allows the collection of ecologically valid data in a daily-life environment, the recording of auxiliary data such as response time behaviour, and the opportunity to administer psychological tests to a heterogeneous, geographically scattered sample. Despite all these advantages, the lack of control in those unproctored settings may pose a threat to the validity of the test data. For example, looking up the correct answer is a particular problem in knowledge assessments.

With this study, we investigated the possibility to detect cheating behaviour in an unproctored smartphone-based knowledge task by analysing response behavior. In a first step, we examined whether it is possible to predict cheating behaviour with incidental data such as response time, mouse clicks, and switching browser tabs or windows, which may provide a valid source to indicate cheating behaviour. Therefore, a group of subjects (experimental condition) that is instructed to optimise their score by looking up answers is compared to a control group. In a second step, we compare these data-driven methods with approaches conventionally used to detect cheating or faking behaviour such as a questionnaire assessing social desirability and over-claiming.

SESSION 03



Wednesday, 17 February 2016
13:40 - 14:50

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF LABOUR MARKET INSECURITY

CHAIR:

Dr. Gwendolin Blossfeld

PRESENTATIONS:

Leonard Geyer

Measures to Tackle Youth Unemployment in European Countries

Elena Chincarini

The Consequences of Unemployment on Couple Stability

03

LEONARD GEYER



Regular fellow since summer 2015

FIELD:

Political Economy

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

The Political Economy of Measures Against Youth Unemployment

PRESENTATION:

Measures to Tackle Youth Unemployment in European Countries

Youth unemployment has been a reoccurring problem in European states and one of the most visible consequences of the Great Recession. The issue is of high public policy relevance due to the individual and societal costs involved. „Scarring effects“ through spells of unemployment early on in a person’s life can have long-lasting negative effects on income and life satisfaction and the economic costs of young people not in employment, education and training (NEETs) in the EU are estimated to be around 1.2% of GDP. However, we still know very little about how governments try to react to this challenge. Possible measures can include demand side policies (macroeconomic policies, social pacts, employment subsidies or public works programmes), supply side policies (education and training, job search assistance, labour market reforms) or measures to reduce the consequence of youth unemployment such as income support.

In my presentation, I aim at making two contributions. First, I will provide an overview on the type of labour market policies used by EU governments to tackle youth unemployment with the use of recent Eurostat data. Second, I argued that the choice of measures matters for two reasons. First, the listed measures vary in their effectiveness of reducing youth unemployment. For example, education, training and job search assistance have been found to be of little value during economic downturns. Second and related to the first point, the measures vary in the degree to which they foster inequality. Less educated youth are most likely to become unemployed and thus suffer from scarring effects through the deterioration of their skills, stigmatisation, the loss of self-esteem or mental health problems. Therefore, even measures which are equally ineffective may differ in the degree to which they prevent scarring and thereby further hurting weaker societal groups. Training measures for example are more likely to prevent scarring through skill deterioration than job search assistance.

03

ELENA CHINCARINI



Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:

Sociology

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

The Consequences of Labour Market Insecurity on Couple Stability

PRESENTATION:

The Consequences of Unemployment on Couple Stability

During the last decades, the increase of divorce and cohabitation rates in most Western countries attracts scholars' attention. Among other determinants, flourishing literature underlines the importance of partners' socioeconomic position in determining marital instability. Even in countries where dual earners couples are the norm and not anymore the exception, a higher socioeconomic position of male partner is found to stabilise the couple, while the female higher position seems to have rather a disruptive effect. Building on these premises, this research aims to investigate whether unemployment might have a relation with couple dissolution, whether this relation shows gender differences and which are the mechanisms explaining this relation and its gender differences. Combining economic, sociological and psychological explanations, a general and comprehensive framework is offered in order to understand the impact of labour market uncertainty on couples. Nevertheless, existing studies do not wonder whether cohabitation dissolution might be explained by different mechanisms from the ones used to study divorce. That is why this research will try to analyse and compare both forms of couples, marriage and cohabitation.

To investigate the theoretical conceptualisations, data from the Socio-economic Panel (SOEP) from Germany will be used. This choice is both theoretically and empirically driven. First of all, German labour market is characterised by general higher levels of unemployment rates. Moreover, Germany is a perfect example of a conservative country, where even if the female participation inside the labour market has been arisen exponentially in the last decades, women job is still considered secondary to the male one. Second of all, SOEP offers a wide range of longitudinal and representative data, from 1984 until now, both at the individual and the household level about family evolution, labour market and occupational dynamics, and earnings, income and social security. Furthermore, it also collects fundamental retrospective information in order to reconstruct the previous working career of individuals and the family history. Methodologically, Event History analysis (EHA) models will be used. Moreover, this research is based on a couple perspective. Innovative in this field of research, it allows merging information of both partners, in order to avoid overestimation of couple dissolution determinants.

SESSION 04



Wednesday, 17 February 2016
15:10 - 16:20

DECISION DYNAMICS IN COMPLEX SYSTEMS

CHAIR:

Dr. Florian Weiler

PRESENTATIONS:

Marc Saur

The Mystery of City Size Distribution

Mirjam Böhme

Decision-Making in Complex Environments: Analysing the Interaction of Conflicting Decision Mechanisms in Public Infrastructure Programmes

04	MARC SAUR	
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Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:
Economics

DISSERTATION PROJECT :
The Mystery of City Size Distribution

PRESENTATION:

The Mystery of City Size Distribution

In most countries of the world, we can observe that the city size distribution approximately follows a power law with an exponent close to 1. To see this, we simply need to order the cities according to their size and plot their rank size against their population size in a log-log-regression. As a result, the population of a city of rank S can be estimated by $1/S$ of the population of the largest city. This relationship is also known as Zipf's Law. Such a simple result seems to be quite surprising in a complex and dynamic environment like ours. Thus it is worth to have a closer look at the reasons for this regularity. Modern economic research here provides three possible explanations: Economies of scale (e.g. Helpman (1974) and Fujita et al. (1999)), Location Fundamentals (e.g. Rappaport & Sachs (2001)) and Random Growth Theory (e.g. Gabaix (1999)).

In this thesis I hypothesise that city size distributions are caused by a mixture of economies of scale and location fundamentals. At first location fundamentals provide the necessary location advantage for a region which is later ensued by economies of scale depending on the population and resource endowments of a region. To show this I derive a theoretical framework which features both approaches and then derive political implications from the model. As a next step, I will test for the validity of the model by conducting a simulation of whether the model is able to repeat the stylised facts. Finally, a closer look at existing data will be done. Thereby I will run a regression analysis on different industries to look for the relevance of economies of scale and location fundamentals in the city size distribution of Germany.

04

MIRIJAM BÖHME



Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:

Political Science

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

Decision-Making in Complex Environments. Analysing the Interaction of Conflicting Decision Mechanisms in Planning Processes of Public Infrastructure Programmes

PRESENTATION:

Decision-Making in Complex Environments: Analysing the Interaction of Conflicting Decision Mechanisms in Public Infrastructure Programmes

Planning processes of public infrastructure programmes are often accompanied by changes and interruptions. Planning takes place in a complex social reality and therefore the processes present a highly dynamic and diverse decision-making environment for a great variety of participating actors. These human actors, who have limited cognitive abilities, limited information of the processes, and limited time to make decisions, are thought to deploy psychological heuristics in order to cope with the complex environment and make meaningful decisions. As heuristics are environmentally sensitive, actors will deploy various heuristics. Because human interaction is one of the driving forces of planning processes, this is where problems are thought to arrive due to misunderstanding and miscommunication. It will be argued that in order to understand the underlying dynamics, the real mechanisms of human decision mechanisms and their interaction need to be understood.

The aim of this research project then is to explain how the deployment of conflicting decision mechanisms influences the dynamics of planning processes of public infrastructure programmes. Two questions have to be answered for this explanation. On a micro-level: which are the conditions that enable the deployment of what decision mechanisms? And on a micro-macro-connection: how does the deployment of conflicting decision mechanisms influence the dynamics of planning processes of public infrastructure programmes?

SESSION 05



Thursday, 18 February 2016
09:30 - 10:40

CHANGING GENDER ROLES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

CHAIR:

Prof. Dr. Michael Gebel

PRESENTATIONS:

Agata Maria Kraj

Structural and Individual Determinants of Women's Success in Electoral Office

Ansgar Hudde

Fertility Is Low When There Is No Societal Agreement on a Specific Gender Role Model

05

AGATA MARIA KRAJ



Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:

Political Science/ Political Psychology

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

Structural and Psychological Determinants of Women's Success in Elective Office

PRESENTATION:

Structural and Individual Determinants of Women's Success in Electoral Office

The current research project's aims are as follows: firstly, it is an analysis of the interplay of the political context, i.e. the level and the type of political office female candidates choose to run for, and their subsequent electoral chances across different European countries. Secondly, the project is an experimental exploration of the specific components of political impression formation that foster or hinder women's electoral chances. Specifically, the project focuses on the subtle cues of masculinity in the female politicians' physical appearance and how they affect their chances of getting elected into office. Thirdly, electoral choices are placed and examined within a context of choice, in order to determine how being presented with more than one alternative affects voters' decisions. Lastly, the project strives to explore possible cultural differences in the formation of political impressions and the subsequent electoral chances of the female candidates. Having achieved these aims, the research project will contribute to the unification of theoretical and methodological underpinnings of the field of political psychology as far as women's participation in the political sphere is concerned.

05

ANSGAR HUDDE



Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:

Sociology / Demography

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

An Analysis of the Effect of Societal Gender Roles and Reconciliation Policies on Fertility

PRESENTATION:

Fertility Is Low When There Is No Societal Agreement on a Specific Gender Role Model

Many authors argue that recent rises in fertility in Western societies can be explained by increases in gender equality and gender equal attitudes, but the mechanisms behind these relations remain unclear. This paper argues that fertility levels are not (only) related to the content of societal gender role attitudes, but to the variation in these attitudes. A great variation in attitudes among potential partners causes uncertainty and conflicts, which decreases people's propensity to choose parenthood (again).

How this idea is tested: macro-level regressions on 23 countries are run in which a measure for the average gender role attitude as well as the dispersion in that attitude are regressed on the level of fertility. This dispersion is measured as the standard deviation of an attitudinal variable, which is computed through factor analysis, in the given country. Attitudinal information is from the ISSP 2012.

The analysis gives support to the hypothesis: the greater the variation in gender role attitudes, the lower the fertility. The association is considerably strong, significant, and holds against various robustness checks. The contribution of this paper is threefold. First, it sheds more light on the mechanism behind the widely discussed relation of gender relations and fertility. Second, it shows how the variation in a variable - independently of its average value or content - matters for a social outcome. Third, it applies a more reliable measure for fertility than most comparative studies, namely completed cohort fertility.

SESSION 06



Thursday, 18 February 2016
11:00 - 12:10

LEADERSHIP IN FORMAL AND INFORMAL CONTEXTS

CHAIR:

Prof. Dr. Ariadna Ripoll Servent

PRESENTATIONS:

Oana Georgiana Buta

Towards a Functional Representation of the Roma: The Importance of Traditional Representative Institutions

Javier Martínez Cantó

On Which Criteria Do Political Parties Choose Their Top Candidates? A First Insight

06

OANA GEORGIANA BUTA



Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:

Political Science

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

Towards a Functional Representation of the Roma: The Importance of Traditional Representative Institutions

PRESENTATION:

Towards a Functional Representation of the Roma: The Importance of Traditional Representative Institutions

This work seeks to provide an analysis of the Roma participation and representation in Romania. The Roma as a group have ‘suffered hostility, segregation, and misery’ (Stewart, 1997) and due to their numerical inferiority, but also lack of a kin state, a history of persecution and the perceptions of the majority who sees them as ‘as unfit to rule’ (McGarry, 2010) they have been excluded from the decision making process. Even after the fall of communism and the adoption of ‘representative democracy’, the Roma have not been exempted from persecution, both physical and political, in most of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

In Romania, despite the adoption of a ‘permissive system’ of representation (Rostas) which allows ethnic parties, reserved places in the Lower Chamber of the Parliament for every recognised minority group and the allowance of NGOs to participate in the electoral campaign, in the case of Roma we do not only see a decrease in the level of participation, but also no political parties, just 2 MPs (in 2014) for a population of over 1 million and low levels of trust in their representatives. The same picture is reflected at the European level (McGarry, 2010) as well. In addition, it has also been noticed the re-emergence of traditional leaders such as bulibasa and radja who challenge the legitimacy of the elected leaders. Thus, this puzzling picture raises questions about the reasons why Roma are weakly represented and do not participate and what is the role of traditional leaders.

06	JAVIER MARTÍNEZ CANTÓ 
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Regular fellow since summer 2015

FIELD:

Political Science

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

On which Criteria Do Political Parties Choose their Top Candidates?

PRESENTATION:

On Which Criteria Do Political Parties Choose Their Top Candidates? A First Insight

On which criteria do political parties in parliamentary democracies select top candidates for legislative and executive office before elections? The scholarly literature has focused on the methods and procedures parties use to choose their candidates. However, less research has been published on the reasons behind such choices.

This paper presents and assesses a concrete indicator for understanding the reasons behind the selection process. The focus is placed here on the Top Candidate selection and specifically, if the party leaders are selected for this position or not. Party chairpersons are among the main political figures in a country. They have often earned their party's trust through a long history of service in the organisation. Hence, from a principal-agent perspective, they should be among the most likely candidates for leading their parties to electoral battle. I firstly aim to know the extent to which parties choose their leaders as top electoral candidates across time. Recent theoretical work on the presidentialisation of parliamentary systems and party system cartelisation might lead us to expect that a decline of the share of party chairpersons as top candidates. Here it will be studied if in a context of increasing electoral personalisation both outside and within party organisations, chairpersons are still attractive frontrunners, and to what extent. The present paper develops a conceptual framework and research design to address this question followed by the first assessment of the phenomena through the German and Spanish regional cases.

SESSION 07



Thursday, 18 February, 2016
13:10 - 14:20

WHEN THE STATE OUTSOURCES ITS FUNCTIONS

CHAIR:

Prof. Dr. Florian Herold

PRESENTATIONS:

Elena Ríos Camacho

EU Decision-Making in an Unprecedented Euro Crisis: Explaining the Integration Process of the European Banking Union

Christopher Kearney

The Chimeric Nature of Private Military Companies: Between Corporate Fear-Mongers and the Shadow of Mercenarism

07

ELENA RÍOS CAMACHO



Regular fellow since summer 2015

FIELD:

Political Science

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

The EU Last „Grand Bargain“? Decision-making in the Integration Process of the European Banking Union

PRESENTATION:

EU Decision-Making in an Unprecedented Euro Crisis: Explaining the Integration Process of the European Banking Union

The creation of Banking Union represents one of the most important steps towards European integration to date. After all the resistance of the member states to centralised banking supervision and regulation, integration continues. However, the integration outcome is not in line with what it is functionally desirable because Banking Union is a hybrid construction. Whereas supervision is highly centralised at EU level, the resolution mechanism retains more national and intergovernmental elements. There is no empowerment of the European Commission, but of the European Central Bank and the Single Resolution Board. Following this puzzle, the main research question of my project is: “How can the integration process of Banking Union be explained?” More specifically, how can we explain the agenda-setting and decision-making process through the lens of rational choice institutionalism and bargaining theory? In my presentation for the IBC conference, I will briefly outline my research proposal and the status of my research by presenting some preliminary insights of the negotiation process of the first element of banking union, namely the Single Supervisory Mechanism.

07	CHRISTOPHER KEARNEY
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Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:

International Relations / Political Science

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

Corporate Chameleons? An Exploration of the Puzzling Identity of Private Military Companies

PRESENTATION:

The Chimeric Nature of Private Military Companies: Between Corporate Fear-Mongers and the Shadow of Mercenarism

Whether in the media, popular culture or academia: Private Military Companies (PMCs) have recently attracted ever increasing attention. The reason for this can be found in the centrality of the Weberian claim to the monopoly of violence that underlines modern statehood. Indeed, states derive much of their legitimacy from this source. Because of this, any private source of violence is bound to be met with resistance, and likely labelled with the “m word” (mercanarism).

At the same time, there is very little academic consensus about what PMCs actually are. While there are some accounts focussing on their novel, corporate nature, scant attention has been paid to how these companies actually perceive and position themselves. There is some first evidence that they, chameleon-like, construct a multitude of identities to advance multiple ends and appeal to multiple audiences.

This study aims to fill this gap by taking a closer look at the identities that PMCs construct for themselves vis-à-vis various other actors and how these actors respond to these moves. Of greater interest will be the question of how all actors involved deal with the mercenary issue (whether and how PMCs differ from them), how the perceived uncertainty of the contemporary security environment and trends in governance play a role, and whether these articulations changed recently.

To that extent a discourse analysis will be conducted focussing on the discursive encounter of the Self (or Selves) that PMCs articulate versus the PMC Self as seen by official and media discourse. Is therefore a comparison of PMC identity against the backdrop of the mercenary other. The temporal perspective will be the comparison of today’s views compared to those during and shortly before the Third Gulf War. It is expected that the basic discourses to which all other discursive moves will relate are likely to be a) the soldier, b) mercenaries, and c) risk/contingencies/new threats.

SESSION 08



Thursday, 18 February 2016
13:10 - 14:20

SCHOOLING PERFORMANCE IN A MICRO- AND MACRO-CONTEXT

CHAIR:

Prof. Dr. Thomas Saalfeld

PRESENTATIONS:

Claudia Traini

Stratification of Education Systems. Towards a Shared Definition

Simon Christoph

The Impact of Peer Groups on Immigrant and Native Students' Educational Achievement and Aspirations

08

CLAUDIA TRAINI



Regular fellow since summer 2015

FIELD:

Sociology

DISSERTATION PROJECT :

Stratification of Education Systems Upsides and Downsides

PRESENTATION:

Stratification of Education Systems. Towards a Shared Definition

The main research question this project deals with is why countries show different patterns in the associations of the OED triangle. Comparative literature analysing the effect of social origin on education (OE) as well as the effect of education on destinations (ED) has shown the existence of different patterns that vary between countries (the first findings trace back to Blossfeld and Shavit 1993 and Müller and Shavit 1998). These two strands of literature have already considered how these country patterns are related to the organisation of education systems, while such an argument has been mostly disregarded considering the mediating role of education in the intergenerational transmission of occupational attainment (OED).

Analysing the effect of stratification of education system on OE and ED associations, the previous literature shows two main drawbacks. First, the existence of a terminological confusion concerning the terms employed. Second, the relationship between theoretical concept and empirical indicant(s) is often vague. I will address the abovementioned shortcomings by better defining the concept of stratification of education systems, and by creating a single index that accounts for all the relevant sub-dimensions related to the concept.

08

SIMON CHRISTOPH



Regular fellow since winter 2015/2016

FIELD:
Sociology

DISSERTATION PROJECT :
The Impact of Peer Groups on Immigrant and Native Students' Educational Achievement and Aspirations

PRESENTATION:

The Impact of Peer Groups on Immigrant and Native Students' Educational Achievement and Aspirations

Sociological educational researches mainly focus on social background and family resources, while peer groups and especially their heterogeneous nature have been underresearched. The proposed research therefore will demonstrate that peer group contexts have been regarded in a too general way and especially friendships have to be considered as an independent point of reference, while they have been largely neglected by now. Particularly because of the high and rising proportion of immigrants in Germany, interethnic contacts became unavoidable in all societal areas. Thus, in the course of demographic development, the implications of these changes within the context of peer groups are of particular interest, both for students of native and immigrant origin, and will contribute to a better understanding of influences on educational attainment processes and ethnic educational disparities.

Therefore, the proposed research attempts to analyse peer group effects separately on educational achievement and aspirations, because both are essential for individual educational trajectories. Due to the evident research gap, the main focus will be on friendships, while influences by family, class- and school mates are taken into account.

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