LEHRSTUHL FÜR STEUERUNG INNOVATIVER UND KOMPLEXER TECHNISCHER SYSTEME
PROF. DR. DR. LASSE GERRITS

Education Program SS 2019

Seminar: **Socio-Technological Evolution (Steuerung II)**
Room: F-21/03.79
Time: Wednesday, 10-12 h – Group 1
Start: April 24th 2019

Short Description:

There is an argument that says that technology shapes the way we live. There is also a counter-argument that says that we are full control of technology and that we can determine what to do with it. Viewed from a long-term perspective, however, it is clear that society and technology co-evolve over time. This course starts from the premise of co-evolution, where there is a continuous reciprocal influence between technology and society. The course asks the questions: what characterizes this co-evolution? And what is the role of politics and governance in this co-evolution?
We will engage in the scientific debate regarding technological determinism and governance. We will also pay ample attention to the emergence and properties of evolutionary theories in the social sciences, in particular in relation to complex systems. We will cover a wide range of literature, including some from theoretical biology, evolutionary economics and social theory. Naturally, all theoretical ideas will be illustrated with real-world examples of governance of technological systems. This interdisciplinary course is in particular interesting to curious students who are open-minded and eager to learn how other disciplines can inform political science.

Notes:

The seminar will be taught in English. Test and grading: paper (75%) and chairing sessions (25%) Minimum - maximum number of participants: 3-15

Learning goals of the course:

- To describe the relationship between technology and society in terms of co-evolving systems
- To obtain an overview of the pressing issues in evolutionary theories for the social sciences

- To take a reasoned stance in the technology debate
- To identify the main challenges of governing technological systems

Literature (mandatory):

E-reader, available online through Virtual Campus.

Test and grading:

Students will be required to write a paper. This written report as well as participation in the shape of chairing sessions will be graded. More details can be found in the syllabus.

Please note!

The course follows the format of problem-based learning (PBL), which requires active participation of the students. Please refer to the section after of the full program in this syllabus for detailed information on how this works.

Speaking hours:

Thursday, 11:00-12:00, or shortly before and after the seminar
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