LEHRSTUHL FÜR STEUERUNG INNOVATIVER UND KOMPLEXER TECHNISCHER SYSTEME JELIZAVETA TERNOVAJA M.A.

Education Program SS 2020

Specialization Module: **Analyzing Mega Projects**

                                 Room: FMA/00.07
                                 Time: Monday, 14-16 h
                                 Start: 20th April 2020

Short Description:

Megaprojects are, by definition, "big infrastructures"; examples of megaprojects are cross-border bridges, high-speed railways, airports, opera houses and the (so far) tallest skyscraper of the world. Megaprojects have become a characterising phenomenon of contemporary urban contexts: they are found all over the world. IHowever, the majority of these multi-million-worth infrastructures comes with significant risks, often resulting in huge time and budget overruns. If one only looks at Germany, the Berlin-Brandenburg Airport (BER), Stuttgart 21 and the Elbphilharmonie come to mind. Many times we bluntly consider these megaprojects as "failures"... but are they? And if so, how can we evaluate them as "failure" or "success" cases?

To reply to this question, during this course we will, on the one hand, unpack the individual "story" of a selection of megaprojects through the analysis of empirical case studies. On the other hand, we will identify the main factors that contribute to megaprojects' outcomes by using appropriate analytical tools that can be applied to different empirical cases. We will examine the involved actors and their governance arrangements (e.g. types of public-private partnerships mostly used for megaprojects' implementation), the technological aspects of the project (e.g. standard or "first-time" techniques), the unforeseen (or only partially foreseen) events and the complex contextual conditions that can affect megaprojects' management and implementation. A selection of methods to analyse the complexity of megaprojects formulation and implementation will also be discussed to understand how these methods can be useful in explaining megaprojects` outcomes

Course structure:

The course, as well as the reading material, is taught in English. Lectures are structured on participation and discussion following Problem-Based Learning (PBL).

Course Evaluation:

The evaluation consists of chairing/supporting discussion in class (20% of the grade) and term paper (80% of the grade). Ideally, students will be divided into two reading groups. During the course, students will prepare some presentations about a given megaproject (group presentation) and about the megaproject they will write about in their final papers (individual presentations). Students will write and submit a paper on a megaproject of their choice as a case study (but comparisons are possible).

Course Literature:

Articles and book chapters will be available online on the Virtual Campus. Please note that the amount of reading required for each session is high (around 50 pages).

Course Syllabus:

The detailed Syllabus of the course will be circulated in due time.

Notes:
The seminar will be taught in English.

Registration:
Via FlexNow! From April 1st until May 10th 2020 or during the first lesson.

Speakin hours: by appointment

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