



**Education Program SS 2020**

**(Main-) Seminar: Governance of Complex Systems II – Socio-Technological Evolution**

**Room:** F-21/03.02

**Time:** Wednesday, 10-12 h

**Start:** 22<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Short Description:**

Some scholars argue that technology shapes the way we live. Other scholars counter-argue that we have full control on 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. All theoretical ideas will be illustrated with real-world examples of governance of technological systems. This interdisciplinary course is especially interesting for curious students who are open-minded and eager to learn about how other disciplines can inform political science from a complexity perspective.

Learning goals:

- 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-society debate
- To identify the main challenges of governing technological systems

**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:**

Chairing/supporting discussion in class (25% of the grade) and term paper (75% of the grade).

**Course Literature:**

Reading material for the course will be available online on the Virtual Campus.

**Course Syllabus:**

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

**Notes:**

The seminar will be taught in English.

**Registration:**

Via FlexNow! From April 1st until April 19th 2020 or during the first lesson.

**Speaking hours:**

Thursday, 14-16 h

**Mail:**

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