

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



Education Program WS 2017/18

**Seminar: Governance of Complex Systems III –
Computer-aided Social Inquiry**

Room: RZ01.03

Time: Wednesday, 12-14 h

Start: 18th of October 2017

Short Description:

Actors operating in complex governance systems deal with a multitude of interlocking variables. That generates considerable uncertainty regarding the possible outcomes of certain decisions. It is therefore pivotal to obtain a better understanding of the systemic properties of certain political and policy issues. One way of achieving this is by combining empirical research with software to model such issues.

In this course, we will focus on Soft Systems Methodology and will learn how to use this research method as a means of knowledge creation, organizational learning and strategic positioning within complex systems. It offers a mixture of research methods, modeling and simulation, and interpretative analysis. The students will work on a small research project (individually). The research project encompasses: (a) identification and articulation of a governance issue, (b) data collection, (c) modeling, and (d) simulations of certain scenarios. Along the research process, we will discuss persistent issues such as causality in complex systems, subjectivism vs. objectivism, factors that influence organizational learning and issues related to strategy. Note that modeling is an iterative process so we will move back and forth in the research cycle.

Notes:

The seminar will be taught in English.

Test and grading: paper

Minimum - maximum number of participants: 3-15

Registration:

Via FlexNow! From September 1st until November 5th, 2017 or during the first lesson.

Speaking hours:

Thursday, 11-12 h

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