

**LEHRSTUHL FÜR STEUERUNG INNOVATIVER
UND KOMPLEXER TECHNISCHER SYSTEME
MICHAEL SCHERING, M.A.**



Education Program WS 2020/21

**Seminar: Governance of Technological Systems -
From Plan to Practice in Public Policy**

Room: F-21/03.48 / Online (Zoom)

Time: Thursday, 14-16 h

Start: 5th of November 2020

Short Description:

Public decision-making is a complex process: it is already difficult to get people take a decision, and then the implementation phase starts, which is usually fraught with problems, unforeseen events and changes of direction. Public policy making and policy implementation are just two of the stages in the “policy cycle” we will examine during this course. Although a linear view of decision-making and policy implementation exists, stages in the policy cycle are often not clearly separable, and the stages might not “cycle” so smoothly as foreseen: for instance, what appeared as a good and quick solution at an earlier stage might turn out to be a rather short-sighted decision at a later stage. We will also examine our role as citizens in public decision-making: how can individual citizens address and be involved in public policy? Which policies should be given priority to? And, once decided, how can we make sure that our plan is carried out as intended – and that it actually works -, while ensuring that the “right” policies are adopted rather than serving powerful interests?

In this course, we will learn about concepts and theories that can help us understand what happens in the often chaotic process of public policy making and implementation. First, we will clarify what the so-called “policy cycle” is, and how “heuristics” (a kind of cognitive shortcut) can be helpful to approach the complexity of the policy cycle. We will learn how decisions are taken given uncertainty and complexity, while also having to deal with the legacies of earlier decisions. We will also analyze public policy in the governance of complex technological systems as a characterizing topic of the Chair for the Governance of Complex and Innovative 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 (20% of the grade) and term paper (80% of the grade).

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).

Notes:

The seminar will be taught in English.

Registration:

Via FlexNow! From September 1st 2020 or during the first lesson.

Speaking hours:

By appointment. Office: F-21/03.69

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