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

Education Program WS 2020/21

Specialization Module: **Analyzing Mega Projects**

Room: FMA/00.06 / Online
Time: Wednesday, 16-18 h
Start: 4th November 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 characterizing phenomenon of contemporary urban contexts: they are found all over the world. However, the majority of these multi-million-worth infrastructures comes with significant risks, often resulting in huge time and cost 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 failed or successful projects?

To answer 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 analyze the complexity of megaprojects formulation and implementation will also be discussed to understand how these methods can be useful in explaining megaprojects' outcomes.

Registration for the course & exam:

Please register for the exam on FlexNow from October 1st until October 29th, 2020. De-registration is possible until November 15th, 2020. Registration is arequirement in order to receive the password for the course on Virtual Campus.

Course structure and form:

The course, as well as the reading material, is taught in English.
Lectures are structured on participation and discussion following Problem-Based Learning (PBL). Please refer to our Pin Board (VC) for further information on PBL. Most sessions will be held online, but individual sessions may be held in-person (Präsenzform). This will be clarified in the introductory session of the course.

Course evaluation:

The evaluation consists of chairing/supporting discussion in class (20% of the grade) and term paper (80% of the grade). In your paper, you should focus on a megaproject of your choice as a case study (comparative studies are also possible). Note: it is not possible to pass the course without submitting a final paper.

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 can vary (i.e., plan your time accordingly).

Course syllabus:

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

Speaking hours:

By appointment.

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