

***Vertiefungsseminar (Politikfeldanalyse) im Sommersemester 2014:***  
**Complexity, Governance and Technology**

<i>Dozent</i>	Prof. Dr. Lasse Gerrits
<i>Termine</i>	Introductory Session: Thursday 24 April 2014, 10pm to 12pm, (Room F21/03.02) First Block: Friday, 23 May, 10am-17pm and Saturday, 24 May, 10am to 15pm Second Block: Friday, 13 June, 10am-17pm and Saturday, 14 June, 10am to 15pm
<i>Raum</i>	FMA/00.06
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<i>ECTS-Punkte</i>	8
<i>Anmeldung</i>	FlexNow
<i>Leistungsnachweis</i>	Referat und Hausarbeit

***Description***

For long, technology has had a major influence on governance. For example, the arrival of the railways meant that geographical distances changed completely, bringing towns closer under control of the central powers but also giving them a means to develop a more independent course. Such issues are still current. The relationship between technology and governance has become increasingly complex as technological systems expand and impacts many aspects of daily life.

But what do we exactly mean when we say that the complexity has increased? What exactly characterizes the relationship between technology and governance? And what does governance look like in the face of technological change? This seminar addresses these questions. We will discuss various theoretical concepts from the toolbox of the complexity sciences that can help us in analyzing and understanding the issues raised here. Using considerable empirical material we will look at the various dynamical aspects such as feedback, self-organization, path-dependency and chance. We will gain a better understanding and appreciation of why governance work or fail to deliver under various conditions by focusing on this complexity. In turn, this appreciation will help us to deliver better policy recommendations. This "Blockseminar" will be taught in English and students are expected to communicate in English.

***Learning goals:***

- To describe the core elements of complexity and governance
- To provide an overview of theories of complexity and complex systems in relation to governance
- To select and defend theoretical concepts in order to analyze issues of technology governance
- To analyze issues with technologies in terms of complexity
- To propose possible solution for governing wicked problems

***Mode:***

The blockseminars are structured around the students' input. Students are expected to prepare a short (approx. 5 minutes) statement about the topic of each session. Some students will be invited to present their statements but all students are expected to join the discussion.

## Professur für Politikwissenschaft, insbes. Steuerung innovativer und komplexer technischer Systeme

### *Topics:*

- 1) What is complexity?
- 2) Everything connected? Really?
- 3) Dynamics? What dynamics?
- 4) The role of the individual
- 5) The importance of self-organization

### ***Preparatory reading***

A detailed outline of individual sessions with required readings will be provided in the introductory meeting and via the Virtual Campus. If you wish to prepare for the class in advance the following book is recommended

- Gerrits, L. (2012). *Punching Clouds. An introduction to the complexity of public decision-making*. Litchfield Park, AZ: Emergent Publications