



Winterterm 2014/15

(V) Governance of Complex Technological Systems

Instructor	Prof. Dr. Lasse Gerrits
Date	Thursday, 12-14
Room	F21/02.41
Email	lasse.gerrits@uni-bamberg.de
Credits	5
Language	English

Description: For long, technology has had a major influence on governance. For example, the arrival of the railway meant that geographical distances changed completely, bringing towns closer under central control of powers but also giving those towns 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 impact many aspects of daily life.

But what does it exactly mean to say that the complexity has increased? What characterizes the relationship between technology and governance? And what does governance look like in the face of technological change? This series addresses these questions. We will discuss various theoretical concepts from the realm of complex systems that can help us in analyzing and understanding the issues raised here. Using empirical examples, we will look at dynamical aspects such as feedback, self-organization, path-dependency and chance. As such, we will gain a better understanding and appreciation of why governance works or fails under various circumstances.

Learning goals:

- To describe the core elements of complexity and governance
- To provide an overview of theories of complexity in relationship to governance
- To analyze a technological policy issue in terms of complex systems
- To propose possible solutions for such issues in terms of governance

Literature (mandatory)

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

E-reader (mandatory)

To be announced