M.A. Political Science

Welcome Session

Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch (Academic Director)
Dr. Tobias Kunstein (Program Coordinator)

08.10.2020, 11 h, Online via Zoom
The Political Science Faculty in Cologne

CCCP – The Cologne Center for Comparative Politics

- Prof. Dr. André Kaiser
  Comparative Political Institutions

- Prof. Dr. Christine Trampusch
  International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology

- Prof. Ingo Rohlfing, PhD
  Methods of Comparative Political Research

- Prof. Sven-Oliver Proksch, PhD
  European and Multi-Level Politics

- Prof. Chitralekha Basu, PhD
  Empirical Democratic Theory

- Prof. Dr. Thomas Jäger
  International Relations

Until 2021: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Leidhold
Political Theory and History of Ideas
Our Master Program

• Range of subfields, high flexibility
• International
• Learn state-of-the-art research methods
• Develop and carry out an independent research project
• Participate in guest lectures, speaker series, workshops
• Connect to current research projects

Our goal: train the next generation of political scientists, enabling you to embark on a professional career in many areas of politics
M.A. Political Science: Module areas

- Comparative Analysis of Political Institutions (I)
- Comparative Political Economy (II)
- Empirical Democratic Theory (III)
- International Relations (IV)
- European and Multilevel Politics (V)
- Political Science Methods (VI)
Courses, Modules, Groups, Sections

COURSES
Lectures
Advanced seminars
Research projects

M.A. STUDY PROGRAMME
120 cl

MODULES
6 or 9 credits

SECTIONS (OR GROUPS)
6 or 9 or 12 or 24 credits

University of Cologne
Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences
M.A. Political Science

Core Section 1: Three lectures (Int‘l Relations and Methods: seminar) (18 credits)

Core Section 2: Two seminars (18 credits)

Master’s Thesis (24 credits)

Three research projects (27 credits)

Colloquium (9 credits)

Modules from other areas/faculties; studies abroad (2x12 or 1x24 credits)

* TOTAL NUMBER OF ECTS: 120 ECTS = 4 SEMESTER STANDARD PERIOD OF STUDY
Programme overview M.A. Political Science

### Core and Advanced Section (36 credits)

#### Core Modules
(18 credits) choose 3 out of 6
- Lecture: Comparative Political Institutions (6 credits)
- Lecture: Comparative Political Economy (6 credits)
- Lecture: Political Theory and Practice (6 credits)
- Seminar: International Relations (6 credits)
- Lecture: Comparing European Democracies (6 credits)
- Seminar: Research Logic & Design (6 credits)

#### Core Modules Seminars
(18 credits) choose 2 out of 6
- Comparative Political Institutions (9 credits)
- Comparative Political Economy (9 credits)
- Empirical Democratic Theory (9 credits)
- International Relations (9 credits)
- European Politics (9 credits)
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods (9 credits)

### Specialisation Section (36 credits)

#### Research projects
(27 credits) choose 3 out of 6
- Comparative Political Institutions (9 credits)
- Comparative Political Economy (9 credits)
- Empirical Democratic Theory (9 credits)
- International Relations (9 credits)
- European Politics (9 credits)
- Introduction to Qualitative Methods (9 credits)

#### Colloquium
(9 credits) Obligatory module: presentation of M.A. thesis

### Supplementary Section
(24 credits)

### Master’s thesis
(24 credits)

Total: 120 credits
Lecture „Comparing European Democracies“

- Basic toolkit to study advanced democracies (including delegation models, the spatial model of politics, formal reasoning)
- Acquire in-depth knowledge of the political systems in Europe and the European Union
- Advanced textbook Fundamentals of European Politics + scientific articles
- Weekly interactive surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Introduction (live)</th>
<th>Week 8: Parties &amp; Party Competition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: Modelling Democracy</td>
<td>Week 9: Government Formation</td>
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<td>Week 3: Multilevel Politics in Europe</td>
<td>Week 10: Governments &amp; Parliaments</td>
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<td>Week 4: Ideology and Voting</td>
<td>Week 11: Policy Outcomes</td>
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<td>Week 5: EU Discussion Session (live)</td>
<td>Week 12: Rule of Law &amp; Future of Europe (live)</td>
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<td>Week 6: Electoral Systems</td>
<td>Week 13: Online Exam</td>
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<td>Week 7: Representation</td>
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Three modules with introductory courses focusing on methods

- „Research Logic & Design“ (André Kaiser) – summer (core category 1). Additional offer in winter term 2020/21 (Ingo Rohlfing)

- „Introduction to Quantitative Methods (in R)“ (Bruno Silva) – winter (core category 2)

- „Introduction to Qualitative Methods“ (Ingo Rohlfing) – winter (specialization category)
Research Logic and Design
(instructor: Prof. Kaiser)

Type: Seminar. Examination: Presentation + Term paper.
Cycle: Summer term
Content:
• Research Questions
• Conceptualisation
• Hypotheses
• Research designs
• Case selection strategies
• Compiling and analysing data
• Seminal studies in political science

Additional offer in the current winter term by Prof. Rohlfing
Introduction to Quantitative Methods
(instructor: Dr. Silva)

Type: Seminar. Examination: Portfolio. Cycle: Winter term

Content:
• Learn statistical programming language R
• Sampling and statistical inference
• Estimation and interpretation of the linear regression model
• Automated data collection and visualisation
• Seminal quantitative studies in political science
• Prerequisite for some advanced seminars
Introduction to Qualitative Methods  
(instructor: Prof. Rohlfing)

Type: Seminar. Examination: Portfolio. Cycle: Winter term

Content:

• Characteristics of the qualitative paradigm of research
• Qualitative research designs
• Strategies of case selection in qualitative research
• Case study techniques
• Causal effects and causal mechanisms
• Process tracing
• Seminal qualitative studies in political science
Which courses should I take?

• We offer a highly flexible program, but you can take one module only once
• Combine methods training with substantive courses
• Sequence: Recommended to take core courses before specialization courses, but not obligatory. All three methods courses are introductory courses.
• Some advanced courses with specific methods (e.g. causal inference, big data analysis) will require "intro to quantitative methods"
Learning advanced political science methods

Advanced methods – while dealing with substantive questions – are also taught in research projects of module areas I-V. Recommended to take introductory courses prior or at same time.

• Winter term 2020/21:
  – “Research Designs and Case Studies in Comparative Political Economy” (Christine Trampusch)
  – Strategic Models of Democratic Politics (Chitralekha Basu)

• Examples from Summer term 2020:
  – “Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)” (Ingo Rohlfing)
  – “Quantitative Research on Representation: An Exercise in Reproduction Analysis” (Ingo Rohlfing)
  – “Analyzing EU Politics with Big Data” (Sven-Oliver Proksch)
## Interdisciplinary Component: Supplementary Section (24 LP)

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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>required language skills</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Behavior</td>
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<td>Markets &amp; Institutions</td>
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<td>Macroeconomics, Money and Financial Markets</td>
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<td>Growth, Labor and Inequality in the Global Economy</td>
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<td>Energy Economics</td>
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<td>Statistics &amp; Econometrics</td>
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<td>Wirtschaftsgeographie</td>
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<td>Ethnologie I</td>
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<td>Languages and Cultures of the Islamic World I</td>
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<td>Ethnology II *</td>
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<td>History</td>
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<td>Media Cultural Sciences</td>
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<td>Economic Geography</td>
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<td>Cooperative Economics *</td>
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<td>Social Policy</td>
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<td>Energy Economics II</td>
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<td>Interdisciplinary Social Sciences</td>
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<td>Studies Abroad I</td>
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<td>Studies Abroad II</td>
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Each group: 12 credits

Each group: 24 credits

*) a number of elective modules within these groups are also available in English.

Important: Courses in the supplementary section are offered by other areas/faculties and may change. Reform planned for winter term 2021/22. The overview is for information only. Details are available from the course catalogue or the respective area.

Bilateral agreement with Faculty of Humanities and Arts
Master Thesis

- Registration possible once 60 ECTS credits earned (third semester onwards)
- Six months starting from registration, 24 ECTS credits
- Approx. 60 pages
- Choose one of the professors as examiner
- Check guidelines (e.g. CCCP Master Thesis Guidelines on the CCCP homepage)
- Presentation in political science colloquium mandatory (CCCP Research Seminar, Colloquium International Relations).
Course and exam registration (KLIPS2)

- **IMPORTANT**: Registration for a course and registration for an exam are two separate processes.
- Course registration through KLIPS2 is governed by course instructors. Get in touch with them, the secretariats or the program coordinator in case of questions or problems.
- Exam registration is subject to stricter rules and administrated by the examination office (=NO flexibility!). Familiarize yourself with the rules BEFORE registration, and observe the deadlines.
- The WiSo faculty has its own KLIPS2 support: [WiSo Faculty → Studies → Organizing Your Studies → Everything about KLIPS 2.0: courses and exam management](#)
Getting Started and Connected

Introduction to R Workshop
- 26 – 28 October 2020 (via Zoom). Registration is open until October 11.

Institute of Political Science
- Opt-in newsletter for MA students: Website of Political Science Institute.
- Talk by political science alumni, Wednesday, 09 December 2020, 16:00 h (via Zoom)

WiSo-Career-Service
- Advice, Coaching, Soft-Skills-Training.

WiSo Student Service Point, WiSo-IT-Service, Regional Computing Center
- Student support, courses, hard- and software

Other university departments
- International office: support for international students
- Extra-curricular courses (transcript), e.g. language classes
Exchange Programmes

- **Study Abroad Exchange Fair** for Students of Political Science on **Tuesday, 20 October 2020, 16-17:30 h (online)**
- Study Abroad Programme partner universities: Sabanci Univ. Istanbul; Sciences Po Paris; Univ. College Dublin; Univ. of Copenhagen; Charles Univ. Prague; Univ. of Nottingham; Universidad Autónoma de Madrid; and others…
- “Simplified“ credit transfer via the modules „Studies Abroad“ (Supplementary Section, 12 or 24 ECTS) and „Special Aspects of Political Science“ (Core Section, 6 ECTS)
- „Normal“ credit transfer for individual modules 1:1
- Center for International Relations of the WiSo-Faculty (ZIB-WiSo), International Office of the University
Studying during the Covid-19 pandemic

• As a rule, all courses, exams and events take place online in line with university regulations
• On-site meetings with political science faculty in small groups in November (TBC)
• Course instructors are available for personal meetings via Zoom or Skype
Thank you for your attention!

Q & A