

BERLIN SUMMER SCHOOL IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Linking Theory and Empirical Research

Berlin, July 19 – August 1, 2015

We are delighted to announce the 5th Berlin Summer School in Social Sciences. The summer school aims at promoting young researchers by strengthening their methodological understanding in linking theory and empirical research. The two weeks program creates an excellent basis for the advancement of their current research designs.

In the first week we address the key methodological challenges of concept-building, causation/explanation and micro-macro-linkage that occur in almost all research efforts and strive for a clarification of the epistemological implications underlying methodological paradigms. In the second week, these methodological considerations are applied to central empirical fields of research in political science, sociology, and their intersections with other disciplines. In this second part of the program participants are assigned to four thematic groups according to their own research topics. The thematic areas cover “Governance, Politics and Processes of Decision-Making”, “Citizenship, Migration and Diversity”, “Social Struggle and Globalization”, and “The Dynamics of National and International Regimes”.

The program is characterized by a varied format of lectures, workshops, seminars, and one-to-one consultations. During the summer school participants will also have the opportunity to present and intensely discuss their own work and approaches and will be provided with hands-on advice for their research designs.

The school brings together a faculty of renowned international and Berlin-based scholars. Among the confirmed international lecturers are Michael Burawoy (UC Berkeley), Michael Coppedge (University of Notre Dame), Donatella Della Porta (EUI), Macartan Humphreys (Columbia University), Friedrich Kratochwil (formerly EUI), Daniel McFarland (Stanford University), Virag Molnar (New School for Social Research), Wendy Olsen (University of Manchester), and Sanjay Seth (Goldsmiths, University of London).

The Berlin Summer School is a joint endeavor of the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. It is co-funded by the two institutions. Moreover, we receive generous funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Details on travel grants and tuition fees can be found on our webpage.

The international summer school is open to 50 PhD candidates, advanced master students and young Post-Docs. The call for applications has opened. Applications can be submitted online via the application form on the summer school webpage until March 31, 2015.

The decisions of the selection committee will be communicated to the applicants at the beginning of April. For more information, please visit our webpage at www.berlinsummerschool.de.

If you have additional questions, please contact directly the organizing team at summerschool.bgss@hu-berlin.de