

Summer School

Forest and Environmental Policy Research:
From Theory to Method and Back.

12.09 - 15.09.2017 Schauinsland Freiburg, Germany

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg



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Scope

Academic research on forest and environmental policy and governance sometimes seeks to test or explore a theoretical perspective and sometimes an empirical puzzle motivates the research. Typically, research on policy and governance takes a pragmatic approach, meaning that researchers are interested in a specific problem and useful results. Regardless, the first step is always to develop a research design that is consistent in terms of the theory, methodology, methods, and desired results.

Developing an appropriate research plan requires understanding the range of theories available for studying policy and governance in forest and environmental policy. This is the first goal of this summer school – what are the larger classifications of theory? The second goal is to link appropriate methodologies and methods to different research designs and theories. Whether the research goal is to test or generate theory, the researcher must understand how different relevant theories can explain and understand the research question. All of this calls for a systematic way of connecting theory to methodology and methodology to theory.

This summer school aims to provide a platform for examining the inter-linkages between theory and methodology in the research process. By combining lectures from experienced researchers with presentations of the participating PhD and graduate students along with small group work, discussion, and direct interaction with mentors, we hope to enhance the quality of your research on forest and environmental policy and governance.

Learning aims

The major aims of the summer school are to enable participants: (1) to better align their theoretical and methodological approaches in within their research design; (2) to clearly justify their distinct research steps, data collection and data analysis; and (3) to learn to better situate their own research in the wider research landscape within and across disciplines and thus to clearly show their contribution to the body of scientific knowledge.

Specific aims:

- Become familiar with the key schools of thought and research approaches in policy and governance research and be able to categorize different theories into these approaches.
- Identify research questions and apply appropriate methodological approaches for the selected theoretical approach.
- Enhance the inter-linkage between theory and methodology in PhD research on forest and environmental policy research, ensuring high quality results and clear contributions to the body of scientific knowledge.

Organization

The summer school is organized by the [Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy of the University of Freiburg](#) with lecturers from neighboring chairs and institutes. It takes place in connection to the [IUFRO Congress 2017](#) that is allocated to Freiburg.

Location and transport

The summer school takes place at the [University house on Schauinsland](#). Transportation to the location is organized with a shuttle bus. The **first shuttle bus departs on Tuesday at 10:30 from Herderbau, entrance Habsburgerstrasse** for the participants located in Freiburg. For all participants travelling to Freiburg for the summer school the shuttle bus departs at **12:15 from Freiburg main train station (Hauptbahnhof), meeting point at the Deutsche Bahn information desk in the entrance hall.**

OBS! If possible, please be at the meeting point 15 min prior to departure! For those travelling by train to Freiburg: please consider that there is a line closure North of Freiburg that increases travel time by 60 minutes. For details check www.bahn.de.

For urgent matters on the day of arrival please contact: **015736338693 (Sylvia) or 015201314895 (Ida).**

Facilities

Breakfast, lunch and dinners are included, as well as snacks during the coffee breaks. Information about dietary needs have been provided in a separate email. If you have any further questions please take contact with Sabine Dehn.

Bed linen and towels are provided. Please bring your own **hygiene products, warm clothes and rain clothes**. The location is on a rather high altitude (1100 m above sea level) and it will be cold in the evenings. Outdoor activities are to be expected.

Coordinators and lecturers

Coordinating team: Prof. Dr. Daniela Kleinschmit, Dr. Sylvia Kruse, Dr. Metodi Sotirov, Dr. Ida Wallin (Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy, University of Freiburg)

Main Instructor: **Prof. Dr. Margaret Shannon** (Chair of Forestry Economics and Forest Planning, University of Freiburg and SUNY Buffalo Law School, USA)

Further instructors: **Prof. Dr. Daniela Kleinschmit, Dr. Sylvia Kruse, Dr. Metodi Sotirov** (Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy, University of Freiburg), **Dr. Sina Leipold** (Chair of Sustainable Transition and Circular Economy, University of Freiburg), **Dr. Sabine Reinecke** (Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy, University of Freiburg), **Dr. Tobias Schulz** (Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Switzerland), **Dr. Andy Selter** (Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy, University of Freiburg), **Dr. Roderich von Detten** (Chair of Forestry Economics and Forest Planning, University of Freiburg), **Jenny Lay-Kumar** (Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy, University of Freiburg).

Contact information



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Program

Tuesday 12TH of September		
10:30	First Shuttle from Freiburg Herderbau, entrance Habsburgerstrasse	For those from Freiburg
12:00	Shuttle from Freiburg main station (meeting point at the Deutsche Bahn information desk in the entrance hall)	All travelers
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30	Welcome and introduction to the summer school	Daniela Kleinschmit
14:45	Round of Introduction	Jenny Lay-Kumar
15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:15	Introduction to Philosophy of science incl. group discussion	Margaret Shannon
18:00	<i>Dinner</i>	
19:00	Movie " Kitchen stories "	
Wednesday 13th of September		
8:00	<i>Breakfast</i>	
9:00	Introduction into schools of thought (difference to model, level of theory...)	Metodi Sotirov
9:30	Introduction institutionalism	Sabine Reinecke
10:15	Introduction interpretative approach	Sina Leipold
11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:30	Introduction Policy theories combining different schools of thought (Mixed)	Metodi Sotirov
12:15	Building groups	
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30	Walk and Talk (Supervisor + 1-2 participants)	Supervisors to be announced later
14:15	Group work in Theory groups a) Institutionalism (Sabine und Andy) b) Interpretative (Sina) c) Mixed (Metodi)	
15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00	Group work continue	
17:00	Different theories explaining one case	Roderich von Detten
18:00	<i>Dinner</i>	
19:00	Further development of own paper and spare time	
Thursday 14th of September		
8:00	<i>Breakfast</i>	
9:00	From theory to research design and methods /Research design	Margaret Shannon
9:45	Research methodology I – incl. discussion	Tobias Schulz
10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:15	Research methodology II – incl. discussion	Jenny Lay-Kumar
12:15	<i>Lunch</i>	

13:30	Walk and Talk (Supervisor + 1-2 participants)	Supervisors to be announced later
14:15	Group work on the linkages between theory and method	Margaret Shannon
15:30	<i>Coffee</i>	
16:00	Group work continued	
17:00	Further development of own paper	
18:30	<i>Dinner – BBQ outside if the weather allows</i>	
Friday 15th of September		
8:00	<i>Breakfast</i>	
9:00	Presentation of individual work incl. lessons learned (in two groups)	Margaret Shannon & Ida Wallin
10:30	<i>Coffee breaks</i>	
11:00	Presentation of individual work incl. lessons learned II	Margaret Shannon & Ida Wallin
12:00	Concluding remarks, evaluation	
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30	Departure with shuttle bus to Freiburg main train station	

Walk & talk sessions 13th & 14th of September

In the so called “walk & talk sessions” every PhD student is assigned to a lecturer who gives individual, detailed feedback on the draft paper that every participant hands in until 31st of August. Each participant will be assigned to a supervisor by the organization team and given your draft paper on the 1st of September.

Theory group work 13th of September

The participants will work in theory groups depending on the theoretical framework applied in their individual research project. The division is made into groups discussing institutionalism, interpretative and mixed theory respectively. Preliminary groups will be set-up by the organization team based on the information provided upon registration and then the final groups will be discussed on site before the actual group work starts.



Reading list

It is recommended to read up on the literature relevant for your own research before the summer school, but there are no mandatory readings. The participants of the summer school have highly varying disciplinary backgrounds and in order to get the most out of the teachings the participants with a more natural science background are especially encouraged to read the general readings listed below. The reading will be provided in an interactive online platform.

General readings

Arts, B. (2012) 'Forests policy analysis and theory use: Overview and trends', *Forest Policy and Economics*. Elsevier B.V., 16, pp. 7–13. doi: 10.1016/j.forpol.2010.12.003.

Chalmers, A. F. (1999) *What is this thing called science?* 3rd edn, *What is this thing called science?*. 3rd edn. Indianapolis; Cambridge: Hackett. doi: 10.1097/00132586-196404000-00001.

Moon, K. and Blackman, D. (2014) 'A Guide to Understanding Social Science Research for Natural Scientists', *Conservation Biology*, 28(5), pp. 1167–1177. doi: 10.1111/cobi.12326.

Institutionalism

McKean, M. A. (1998) 'Forest Resources and Institutions', *Common Property: What Is It, What Is It Good For, and What Makes It Work?*, pp. 23–47.

Ostrom, E. (2013) 'Commons, Institutional Diversity of', in *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity*. Elsevier, pp. 155–166. doi: 10.1016/B978-0-12-384719-5.00157-X.

Interpretative approaches

Greenwood, J. (1994) 'What is it precisely that interpretive social research researches?', *Journal of advanced nursing*, 19(5), pp. 996–1002.

Wagenaar, H. (1980) 'Interpretive Approaches in Policy Analysis', in Bevir and Rhodes (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Interpretive Political Studies*. Routledge, pp. 1–27.

Methodology

King, Gary, Keohane, Robert O. and Verba Sidney (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press. Princeton, New Jersey.

Blaikei, Norman (2010) *Designing Social Research. The Logic of Anticipation*. Polity Press. Cambridge, UK.

Participants

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