

About

Politics in the 20th century created a whole array of indicators, such as gross domestic product (GDP) or unemployment indicators, that became crucial for the structuration of entire policy fields. Politics in the 21st century, inspired by the new public management discourse, complemented this trend by developing not only more indicators but also by inventing new forms of regulation and new ways of modelling political expectations about the future.

In the sociology of quantification, the relevance of numbers in democratic politics and democratic representation was among the earliest issues addressed. A basic assumption in this line of reasoning is that there is an inherently political dimension to what seem to be methodological or technocratic issues in the quantification process. While research has become more diversified, there is also growing need for systematizing theoretical approaches and empirical findings as well as pursuing a strategic approach in defining desiderata for further research so as to build a more coherent stock of knowledge about the politics of quantification.

In this workshop we seek to advance this endeavor by focusing especially on institutionalization processes of key indicators and particularly on the relevance of key indicators to a 'politics of expectations'.

Advisory committee

Petra Dobner, Oliver Holtemöller, Christian Papilloud, Richard Rottenburg, Reinhold Sackmann, Konstanze Senge

Organization

Organizers

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Venue:

Seminarraum 2 & 3
Adam-Kuckhoff-Strasse 35
06108 Halle (Saale)

Participation in the workshop is free of charge. There will, however, be a charge of 10€ for catering during coffee breaks. Please register with the organizers by October 1, 2017.

The workshop is hosted by:



Sektion
Politische Soziologie

Deutsche
Gesellschaft
für Soziologie



Governing by numbers:

Key indicators and the politics of expectations

Workshop
October 5-7, 2017

Institute of Sociology

MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT
HALLE-WITTENBERG



Thursday, October 5

13:00 - 13:15 **Welcome**

Keynote

13:15 - 14:15 *Laurent Thevenot (Paris)*
Uniforming for Expecting: A conventionalist perspective on governing numbers from Taylorism to Dataism

14:15 - 14:30 *Coffee Break*

Panel 1 Economic Policy I

14:30 - 15:00 *Tom Kayzel (Amsterdam)*
Macro-Economic Models as Indicators and their Role in Political Processes

15:00 - 15:30 *Christoph Schult (Halle)*
Expectation Formation in Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium Models

15:30 - 16:00 *Coffee Break*

Panel 2 Economic Policy II

16:00 - 16:30 *Ludwig Zurbruggen (Luzern) & Roland Erne (Dublin)*
Governance by Numbers and its Discontent: Comprehending the EU's New Economic Governance Regime and its (intended) de- and (unintended) re-politicization effects

16:30 - 17:00 *Timo Walter (Erfurt)*
Polysemous indicators: the term structure of the interest rate and the multiplicity of economic expectations

17:00 - 17:30 *Oliver Geden (Berlin)*
Temperature targets and remaining carbon budgets in global climate policy: when ecological accounting starts turning against environmentalists' political interests

17:30 - 18:00 *Coffee Break*

Keynote

18:00 - 19:00 *Kenneth Prewitt (New York)*
Counting & Classifying: Damned if you Do, Damned if you Don't

19:30 *Dinner*

Friday, October 6

Panel 3 Science and Education Policy

09:00 - 09:35 *Thomas Heinze & Arlette Jappe (Wuppertal)*
Weak Reputational Control and the Legitimacy Problem of Evaluative Bibliometrics

09:35 - 10:10 *Michael Huber & Maarten Hillebrandt (Bielefeld)*
Governing by indicators: performance-oriented resource allocation in German higher education as a capacity-building exercise

10:10 - 10:45 *Anne Piezunka (Berlin)*
Why do some metrics "work" and others don't?

10:45 - 11:15 *Coffee Break*

Panel 4 Social Policy

11:15 - 11:50 *Ingo Bode (Kassel)*
Let's count and manage – and forget the rest. Understanding numeric rationalization in late modern welfare states

11:50 - 12:25 *Carlotta Mozzana (Milano)*
Profiling people in employment policy: a matter of definition

12:25 - 13:00 *John Berten (Bremen)*
Technologies of expectation in global social policy: from actuarial science to simulation and projection

13:00 - 14:15 *Lunch*

Panel 5 Global Governance

14:15 - 14:50 *Oscar J. Maldonado & Tiago Moreira (Linköping)*
Metrics in Global Health

14:50 - 15:25 *Sara L.M. Davis (New York, Geneva)*
The Uncounted: Politics of data and visibility in global health

15:25 - 16:00 *Georg P. Mueller (Fribourg)*
Limiting the Policy Space of Authoritarian Regimes: The Role of the Freedom House Indicators

16:00 - 16:30 *Coffee Break*

Keynote

16:30 - 17:30 *Christina Boswell (Edinburgh)*
Targets and the Production of Political Trust

19:30 *Dinner*

Saturday, October 7

Panel 6 Beyond GDP?

09:00 - 09:35 *Philipp Lepenies (Berlin)*
Transforming by Numbers: Statistical Indicators and the Quest for Sustainable Development, Well-Being and Progress

09:35 - 10:10 *Félicien Pagnon (Paris)*
The genesis and institutionalization of New Indicators of Wealth

10:10 - 10:30 *Coffee Break*

Panel 7 Indicators from the Perspective of Convention Theory

10:30 - 11:05 *Konstanze Senge (Halle) & Lisa Knoll (Hamburg, Halle)*
Public Debt Management in an Uncertain Environment

11:05 - 11:40 *Rainer Diaz-Bone (Luzern)*
The political economy of quantification – convention theory as a theoretical and methodological basis for a sociology of quantification

11:40 - 12:00 *Coffee Break*

Final discussion

12:00 - 13:00 *Final discussion*