Winter term 2019/2020

University of Cologne
Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP)
Chair of International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology

Seminar Vergleichende Politische Ökonomie:

Public Policy Analysis: Energy, Climate and the Environment

ECTS points: 4 (alte Prüfungsordnung) / 6 (neue Prüfungsordnung)
When: Thursdays, 12:00 – 15:30
Room: 211 IBW, Seminarraum 3.40

Lecturer: Dennis Abel
E-Mail: abel@wiso.uni-koeln.de
Tel.: 0221 / 470-8812
Office hours: By appointment only

Course summary

This mid-term course offers an introduction to data analysis based on energy and climate policy. Each week we will have a double session consisting of an introduction to climate and energy governance (90 minutes) in conjunction with a “lab session” on data analysis in R (90 minutes).

The course introduces general approaches and concepts of environmental policy analysis. The protection of the population against environmental hazards and the mitigation of climate change have emerged as a core task of government policy. We will investigate the decision-making processes in crucial environmental subfields such as climate change mitigation and renewable energy policy.

In the first part of the course, the students will study the single components of environmental policies and regulatory styles. In addition, we will debate different modes and types of climate governance and explore measurements of “good” governance. In the second part of the course, we will focus on the analysis of renewable energy policymaking. We will explore the technological transition literature and study drivers and barriers for renewable energy in the European Union. A final session will be dedicated to the study of change and convergence of renewable energy policies.

The “lab sessions” cover an introduction on hands-on quantitative data analysis with R. No prior knowledge of statistics is expected or required.

At the end of October 2019 we will have a (voluntary) field trip to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn.
Registration

Students have to register via KLIPS2.

Deadline for the exam registration: October 28, 2019

Course requirements and examination

All participants are expected to:

- attend the seminar on a regular basis
- self-study the obligatory readings according to schedule
- actively contribute to class discussions
- give a 10 to 15 minutes presentation in the seminar

The examination consists of three parts:

1. **A short presentation** (10-15 minutes) of the term paper’s research design.

   The presentation will be graded as either “pass” or “fail”.

2. **A written term paper.** Depending on the “Prüfungsordnung”, participants are expected to write

   - 2500 words (alte Prüfungsordnung - 4 ECTS) /
   - 3500 words (neue Prüfungsordnung - 6 ECTS).

Participants must “pass” the presentation as well as the term paper in order to successfully complete the course.

The written examination accounts for 100% of the final grade. The term paper will be graded based on the assessment criteria for term papers as published on our web page (http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/Assessment_criteria_for_research_papers_and_final_thesis.pdf). Points given for the term paper will be converted to the final grade as follows:

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<th>Points</th>
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3. **Bonus work:** Most sessions are accompanied by optional “data challenges”. The deadline for submission of this bonus work is Wednesday midday before the upcoming session. A student receives one bonus point for each assignment. A maximum of five bonus points can be added to the final grade.
The term paper must be submitted as electronic version via email to abel@wiso.uni-koeln.de. The print version should be personally handed in at the administration office of the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (IBW Gebäude, Herbert-Lewin-Str. 2, 1st floor, Room 1.09).

Deadline for submitting the term paper: **December 16, 2019 - 6pm.**

Students should consult the information on writing a term paper and plagiarism on our webpage:

http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/Information_on_how_to_write_a_term_paper_or_thesis.pdf

The term paper must include the following signed statement:

http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/EidesstattlicheErklaerung.pdf

We would like to point out that term papers submitted in this context will be checked anonymously for plagiarism with the software Turnitin.

**Literature recommendations**

For the data analysis part, I recommend the following introductions:


Schedule

(Mandatory readings in **bold**.)

1. **Session (10.10.2019)**

**Introduction to climate policy**

Introduction of the course. Administrative matters. Key aspects: What are policies (components, dimensions and typologies), brief introduction on policy process & governance principles and the environment as a policy problem.


**Data lab I**

Introduction to statistics and the R environment.

Literature: **Field & Miles 2012: 1-61.**

2. **Session (17.10.2019)**

**Governance perspectives on climate and energy policy**

Modes of governance (hierarchy, markets, networks), typologies (varieties of capitalism, developmental / regulatory / green entrepreneurial state), what is "good" governance?


**Data lab II**

Data visualization with the ggplot2 package.

Literature: **Field & Miles 2012: 116-165.**

3. **Session (24.10.2019)**

**Instrument choice for climate policy**

Introduction to regulatory styles and environmental policy instruments (command-and-control, market-based, voluntary agreements etc.), carbon taxes and emissions trading, case: EU ETS


**Data lab III**

Exploring assumptions.

Literature: **Field & Miles 2012: 166-204.**
4. Session (30.10.2019)
FIELD TRIP TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

Briefing on recent developments after the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and before the Conference of the Parties (COP25) in December 2019.


5. Session (07.11.2019)
Renewable energy and technological innovation

Technology transition, green industrial policy, price- and quantity-based approaches for RES-E support, diffusion of instruments.


Data lab IV
Correlation.

Literature: Field & Miles 2012: 205-244.

Case study: Renewable energy support schemes in the EU multi-level system


Data lab V
Linear regression.

Literature: Field & Miles 2012: 245-311.

7. Session (21.11.2019)
Measuring change and convergence of renewable energy policies

Dimensions of policy change (density and intensity), rent-seeking, regulatory capture, policy learning, path-dependency, diffusion.


Data lab VI
Logistic regression.

Literature: Field & Miles 2012: 312-311.
8. Session (28.11.2019)

Final session

Wrap up of the course. Presentation of research designs.

Data lab VII

Comparing two means.

Course literature


