

Call for Applications: WIPCAD PhD Workshop

„Research processes in the field of Public Administration and Public Policy – challenges of concepts and methods”

8-11 November 2015, [Haus Fläming](#)/Dahnsdorf, Brandenburg (Germany)

The WIPCAD PhD Workshop, organized by the [DFG Research Training Group on “Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations: Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy”](#) (WIPCAD), invites doctoral candidates of Public Administration and Public Policy to:

- Discuss current conceptual and methodological concerns of their PhD projects with international peers in their field;
- Learn from experiences of post-doctoral researchers by gaining insights into their actual research processes;
- Broaden their understanding of different theoretical and methodological approaches in Public Administration research by actively engaging with the variety of participants’ foci.

Structure of the WIPCAD PhD Workshop

The workshop follows the format of “[peer supervision](#)”: All participants introduce their PhD projects during an ice-breaker session and pose 1-2 conceptual or methodological questions from their PhD project. Each participant is then consulted on the submitted question(s) by 3-4 other participants for up to one hour.

This format creates mutual inspiration and opens up new perspectives on one’s own project. The aim of this highly interactive format is to provide in-depth and concrete feedback to pressing issues in every participant’s PhD project, as well as to learn from one another.

Additionally, post-doctoral researchers give insights into their research experiences, including dead ends, challenges, and winning strategies from their projects in the field of Public Administration and Public Policy. Together, we want to look behind the polished façades of published articles and learn from the messy reality of research.

The key findings from each consulting session are reported back to the group by dedicated rapporteurs. At the end of the workshop, the rapporteurs try to synthesize the challenges and solutions from the consulting sessions and the post-doctoral researchers’ presentations.

Who may join the WIPCAD PhD workshop?

The WIPCAD PhD workshop is open to doctoral candidates working in the field of Public Administration and Public Policy with some priority given to applicants from the University of Potsdam and Bergen. Relevant topics include: public sector reforms, institutional and organizational change, coping with organizational environments (e.g. questions of legitimacy

and accountability), performance management, politics–administration relations, questions of agency, decision-making and implementation of policies.

Participants are expected to actively contribute to the workshop, which includes:

- Introducing themselves and their dissertation project.
- A written summary of their PhD project and 1-2 questions they would like to be consulted on at the workshop.
- Reading the circulated summaries and questions of their fellow participants beforehand.
- Actively engaging in the consulting sessions and senior researchers' presentations.

Cost

The WIPCAD Research Training Group provides meals, accommodation, and a shuttle to and from the workshop location in Brandenburg for all participants.

Participants will have to fund their own travel costs to Berlin.

How to apply?

To apply for the WIPCAD PhD Workshop 2015, please submit the following documents:

- personal details (name, contact details, academic affiliation, supervisors)
- summary of your dissertation project (max. 5 pages):
title, research question/puzzle/objectives, theoretical framework, methodological approach, current stage within the research process, if present: first results/findings
- Outline of 1-2 questions, concerns or challenges in your PhD project that you would like help with (2 pages).

Please indicate which category your questions belong to:

a) The conceptual part of research

(e.g. formulating research questions, motivating a puzzle, operationalizing concepts, reflecting on methods used, weighing different theoretical approaches),

b) Conducting research

(e.g. struggling with interviews, problems of access, coding issues, finding a suitable analytical method for extant data,)

c) Findings and results

(e.g. dealing with unexpected observations, questions of structure, polishing an argumentative storyline)

Please submit your application to phd-workshop@uni-potsdam.de by **14 August 2015**.

If you have any questions about the workshop, do not hesitate to contact Ina Radtke (iradtke@uni-potsdam.de) or Basanta Thapa (thapa@uni-potsdam.de).