



**THEORY, ANALYSIS AND EMPIRICAL STUDY OF INSTITUTIONS AND
ORGANISATIONS**

- PART 2 - THE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS AND METHODS -

PH. D. WORKSHOP / PROMOTIONSKOLLEG

**Department of Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences
Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture
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Instructors:

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Course Description

Research on Institutions and Organisations which are involved in defining the interrelation between social/ human and natural system faces methodological issues, some of which are common to other social sciences. This Ph.D. course (Promotionskolleg – www.agraroekonomik.de) on “Theory, Analysis and Empirical Study of Institutions and Organisations” specifically aims to address these issues under the heading „The social-ecological research puzzle and methodologies“.

Aims

Participants:

- become familiar with basic issues in philosophy of sciences
- become familiar with basic issues in social-ecological research
- learn about and discuss issues and problems related to the social science research process
- are familiar with selected methodological approaches to researching institutions and organisations, i.e. case studies, experiments
- become familiar with qualitative and mixed methods approaches and data analysis
- reflect on and discuss their own work and that of colleagues in the light of the contents of the course and overall doctoral research.

Contents

- Basic introduction into issues of philosophy of sciences relevant to analysis of institutions and organisations
- Situate research and analysis of institutions and organisations and institutional change in wider social research and social science disciplines (structure agency debate, quantitative and qualitative research paradigms, micro and macro visions, different theories on institutional change)
- Discussion of the research process
- Insights into methodology and data gathering methods for researching and analysing institutions and organisations
 - case study approach, experiments
 - qualitative research methods and data analysis
 - mixed methods (combining qualitative and quantitative methods)
- Exchange of experiences about the process of working on and writing a doctoral, social science thesis
- Reflection of course content in the light of participant's research projects
- Exchange about and discussion of research projects of participants

Teaching Methods

The teaching method will iterate between lectures and interactive development of certain issues. At the end of the course students will be asked to reflect on the course content in view of their own work and present their ideas.

Lectures: 50%, interactive style 30%, individual work 10%, presentation 10%

Grading

- Certificate of attendance, if all sessions are attended.
- To obtain credits: 1) short reflection paper on course content in view of participant's research project (ca. 2000 words, focus to be agreed) - due 4 weeks after the course (70%), and 2) oral paper presentation of own work in view of contents of the course at the end of the course week.

Credit points

3

Requirements

M.Sc. or Diplom/ Magister, social science background

Language

English

Contacts

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