

Editorial



Welcome to the Kolleg-Forschergruppe (KFG) „The Transformative Power of Europe. The European Union and the Diffusion of Ideas“.

The diffusion of ideas has become a central research theme in political science, sociology, law, history, and economics. In this context, the Kolleg-Forschergruppe focuses on the theoretical and methodological challenges of identifying scope conditions for and interaction effects between the various causal mechanisms by which ideas are spread across time and space.

We concentrate on the European Union as an almost ideal laboratory for investigating processes and outcomes of diffusion. First, European integration itself can be described as an effort to promote the diffusion of ideas across Europe and beyond. Second, European societies and polities emulate each other through mimetic processes. Third, Europe and the EU also serve as active promoters of diffusion processes toward the outside world. Last but not least, European integration is embedded in and responds to larger global diffusion processes.

The Kolleg-Forschergruppe explores the diffusion of ideas in three thematic areas: „identity“ and the „public sphere“, „compliance, conditionality, and beyond“, and „comparative regionalism and Europe’s external relations“. The KFG is funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft - DFG) for an initial four-year period and started in October 2008. It brings together political scientists, sociologists, economists, legal scholars, historians, and communication scientists in the Berlin-Brandenburg region working on the diffusion of ideas inside Europe and beyond. A centrepiece of the KFG is our Fellow Program by which we invite national and international guest scholars to work with us as well as junior researchers through (post) doc fellowships.

The Kolleg-Forschergruppe is part of a larger research and training environment in the social sciences at the Freie Universität Berlin and beyond. Its doctoral students participate in the Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies (BTS) of the Freie Universität Berlin, the Hertie School of Governance, and the Social Science Center Berlin. The EU’s external relations including its efforts at good governance promotion are investigated at the Research Center (SFB 700) „Governance in Areas of Limited Statehood“. Last but not least, the Kolleg-Forschergruppe participates in the Center for Areas Studies (CAS) which brings together the Freie Universität’s considerable area studies expertise in the social science and the humanities.

Best regards

Tanja A. Börzel *Thomas Risse*

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Research Directors

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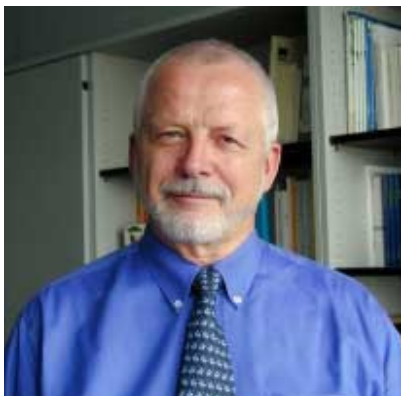
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Prof. Dr. Fritz W. Scharpf joins the KFG

We are pleased to announce that Prof. Dr. Fritz W. Scharpf has joined the Research College in January 2009. The focal point of his research as a Senior Guest Fellow will be the European Court of Justice with regard to the effects of its jurisdiction on the (constitutional) legislation of the EU Member States.



Fritz W. Scharpf is a German political scientist and legal scholar. His previous research dealt with the political economy aspects of welfare states, federalism and the „joint decision trap“ in systems of multi-level governance. He also focuses on the EU and issues concerning the legitimacy and problem solving capacity of EU policy-making. Fritz W. Scharpf was Director of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG), which he established together with Prof. Dr. Renate Mayntz. They jointly developed the approach of „actor-centred institutionalism“ and pioneered research on governance in multi-level systems, within and beyond the nation state.

Prof. Scharpf will stay until the end of April 2009.

Prof. Dr. Guy Peters does research at the KFG

We would like to present Prof. Dr. Guy Peters who started at the KFG at the middle of January. B. Guy Peters is Maurice Falk Professor of American Government at the University of Pittsburgh, and also Distinguished Professor of Governance at Zeppelin University in Friedrichshafen. He also holds honorary positions in



Denmark, Hong Kong and Belgium. Prof. Peters is founding co-editor of the „European Political Science Review“, and was also founding co-editor of „Governance“. He works on issues of comparative governance, including comparative public administration and comparative public policy. His recent publications include „Debating Governance“, co-edited with Jon Pierre and Gerry Stoker, and „Mixes, Matches and Mistakes: New Public Management“ in Eastern Europe.

Prof. Peters will be visiting researcher until June 2009.

New colleagues at the KFG

Next to Prof. Scharpf and Prof. Peters, we would like to welcome some new staff in the coordination office. Since January, Mrs. Ina Nordwald runs the secretary for the Kolleg-Forscherguppe. Additionally, we welcome some new student assistants: Farina Ahäuser, Mareike Bibow, Max Middeke and Sasan Abdi will help us in the areas coordination/administration, conference organisation, public relations and management of publications. For inquiries please find here the contact details of our team.

Astrid Timme	(astrid.timme@fu-berlin.de) Coordinator
Ina Nordwald	(transform-europe@fu-berlin.de) Office Management
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Henrike Knappe	(hknappe@zedat.fu-berlin.de) Administration/Conference Orga
Mareike Bibow	(mareike.bibow@fu-berlin.de) Public Relations/Conference Orga
Max Middeke	(max.middeke@fu-berlin.de) Administration/Conference Orga
Peer Schwirtz	(peer.schwirtz@fu-berlin.de) IT Management
Sasan Abdi	(sasan.abdi@fu-berlin.de) Public Relations

Introduction, Post-Docs

Silke Adam is one of five post-doc fellows at the KFG. She studied communication science with the focus on political science, policy analysis / advice and research methods at the University of Hohenheim, Germany (Diploma). In addition she received – as a Fulbright scholar – a Master of Science in Mass Communication at Boston University, MA. After her studies she has been a research assistant of Professor Barbara Pfetsch at the University of Hohenheim teaching classes and working on the Europub-project. In 2006 she finished her PhD on the question why common EU policies lead to variation in the mass-mediated debates of the member countries. To describe these differing, yet Europeanized debates she combined empirical content and network analysis. Since October 2008 Silke Adam is a post-doc fellow in the DFG Research College “The Transformative Power of Europe” at the Freie Universität Berlin. Here she conducts respectively develops two research projects that study how communication about Europe affects EU citizens. The first project (together with Prof. Michaela Maier, University of Landau) deals with the strategies and effects of national party campaigns in the context of the upcoming European Parliament elections. Thereby, a content analysis of campaign material (TV spots and posters) is combined with experimental research that sheds light on the question of how specific campaign characteristics affect citizens’ knowledge about and their



Dr. Silke Adam

Introduction, Post-Docs (continuation)

attitudes towards the European Union. The second project seeks to understand whether and under which conditions domestic mass media impact citizens' attitudes towards EU integration – more specifically their perceptions of the importance of the issue, their responsibility attributions, their economic cost / benefit calculations and identity related considerations.

Dr. des. Nicole Doerr



Focus: Comparative analysis of deliberative democracy and transnational public spaces in social movements, civil society participation

Dr. Eva Heidbreder



Focus: European Integration, Eastern Enlargement, European Commission, Public Policy

Dr. Arolda Elbasani



Focus: EU enlargement, Comparative democratisation, Theories of institutional change, Public administration

Dr. Artur Lipiński



Focus: Polish party politics, language and politics, sociology of memory

Workshop: EU Enlargement and Institutional Reforms in Southeast Europe

The workshop EU Enlargement and Institutional Reforms in Southeast Europe, held on 5-6 February 2009 in Berlin, has brought together more than 20 scholars working on different facets of institutional change in the Balkan region. The papers were organized in four main panels, covering the most important topics and cases outlining an overall new research agenda on the Balkans including the specificity of the EU conditionality in the region (1), the comparison of various domestic contexts and resistance to EU impact (2), the artifacts of limited statehood in Bosnia and Kosovo (3) and the more pervasive problems of weak statehood and governance across the region (4). The wide range of participants including scholars from the region, established western universities and practitioners has enabled a comprehensive and informed discussion merging theoretical concerns on the role of EU enlargement mechanisms with rich empirical insights on various domestic environments that might pose a challenge to EU. Overall, the papers have stressed the differentiated impact of EU across various areas, institutional contexts and timing of reform.

For a full program, please consult *our website*.

For more information on the papers and the expected output please contact *Arolda Elbasani*.

Lecture Series: The Transformative Power of Europe (Summer Term 2009)

The diffusion of ideas has become a central research theme in political science, sociology, law, history, and economics. In this context, the lecture series „The Transformative Power of Europe“ will focus on the theoretical and methodological challenges of identifying scope conditions for and interaction effects between the various causal mechanisms by which ideas spread across time and space. Prof. Dr. Tanja A. Börzel: „Amongst others, we will ask what kind of diffusion mechanisms the EU does employ and which diffusion mechanisms are particularly conducive to transformational changes inside and outside the EU.“ The lecture series gives an overview of the research programme of the Kolleg-Forschergruppe „The Transformative Power of Europe“. In the course of the lecture, fellows from different disciplines will present their approaches and research projects with the focus on the areas „identity and the public sphere“ and „compliance, conditionality, and beyond“.

When? 04/15/09 - 07/15/09
2 - 4 pm on Wednesdays

Where? Henry-Ford-Bau
Lecture Hall D
Garystraße 35
14195 Berlin-Dahlem