

**Freie Universität Berlin, DFG Research College**  
**The Transformative Power of Europe: The European Union and the Diffusion of Ideas**

<b>WORKSHOP PROGRAM</b>
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**Workshop on Discursive Institutionalism**

proposed by  
Vivien Schmidt and Nicole Doerr

This workshop focus on the importance of ideas and discourse in the study of politics and society at national, European, and trans-national levels. Participants will come from the FU and other area universities. We will consider questions related to the ways in which ideas and discourse are developed theoretically, including the nature of ideas and discourse-as-representation, the interactive processes of discourse, and the institutional context within which ideas and discourse are situated. We will also examine the ways in which different theories about ideas and discourse are applied in practice in different disciplinary domains including political science, sociology, and international relations.

Participants are invited to think about the following questions that shall guide our conversation on Discursive Institutionalism, and Discourse approaches to transnational politics, diffusion and social change.

First (1), we want participants to discuss their theoretical approach and how it applies empirically to the questions we ask. In line with this, we ask participants to engage also in a critique of their own approaches, by discussing their limitations and the areas that require further elaboration, whether in theoretical or empirical analysis. Second (2), as discursive approaches also have great purchase for the theme of the Research College Transformative Power of Europe, participants are invited to think about what their approach adds to ways of studying (transnational) diffusion, its mechanisms, limits, power, translation, re-contextualization and other concerns. Third (3), how do discursive approaches help to explain or understand social change, how could this be used for comparison, combination or cross-fertilization of different methods and theories?