



Research in Germany

- Political Science Research -



Political Science Research in Germany is conducted at universities and at non-university research institutes. Almost all German universities have their own department in the field. Among the non-university research institutes, mainly the Leibniz Association (basic and applied research) and the Max Planck Society (basic research) maintain research institutes with a focus on political science. Universities and non-university research institutes both offer graduate training programmes in the field, funded by the government. There also exist private and public foundations that support research in Germany, for example the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH). The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) supports research training groups, large research consortia, and individual research projects. This poster provides a selection of DFG funded research and non-university research institutes.

COORDINATED PROGRAMMES FUNDED BY THE DFG

- Collaborative Research Centres (CRC)** (Sonderforschungsbereiche; SFB)
 - established at a single university (standard CRC) or by multiple nearly equal partners (Transregio variation, up to 3 sites)
 - present outstanding research programmes, crossing the boundaries of disciplines, institutes, departments and faculties
 - research programme must correspond to and strengthen the research profile of host university(ies)
 - may also incorporate projects at further (research) institutions (both academic and commercial, inside or outside Germany)
 - funded by the DFG for a period of up to 12 years (3 four-year periods)

The following CRCs are currently funded in political science:

- "Global Dynamics of Social Policy" (CRC 1342), funded since 2017
speaker: Herbert Obinger, Bremen
contact: www.socialpolicydynamics.de/en
- "Political Economy of Reforms" (CRC 884), funded since 2010
speaker: Thomas König, Mannheim
contact: <https://reforms.uni-mannheim.de/>

Research Units (FOR) (Forschungsgruppen; FOR)

- specific medium-term research projects whose anticipated findings would not be able to be achieved within the scope of the individual grants programme but only by a coordinated effort
- proposals can be submitted to the DFG at any time, decision is made in a two-step process
- funded by the DFG up to 8 years (2 four-year periods)

Currently the following Research Units in or strongly related to political science are funded:

- "Overlapping Spheres of Authority and Interface Conflicts in the Global Order (OSAIC)" (FOR 2409), funded since 2017
speaker: Michael Zürn, Berlin
contact: www.wzb.eu/en/research/international-politics-and-law/global-governance/projects/constitutionalism-unbound-developing-triangulation-for-international-relations
- "International Public Administration. The Emergence and Development of Administrative Patterns and their Effects on International Policy-Making (IPA)" (FOR 1745), funded since 2014
speaker: Christoph Knill, Munich
contact: www.ipa-research.com
- "Bedarfsgerechtigkeit und Verteilungsprozeduren" (FOR 2104), funded since 2014
speaker: Stefan Traub, Hamburg
contact: www.bedarfsgerechtigkeit.hsu-hh.de

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

- German Political Science Association (GPSA)
contact: www.dvppw.de
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Politikwissenschaften
contact: www.dgfp.org

CLUSTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Clusters of Excellence (EXC) (Exzellenzcluster; EXC)

- launched by the German government in order to boost excellent research through additional funds
- project-based funding in internationally competitive fields of research at universities or university consortia
- often include doctoral training programmes
- DFG is responsible for developing and implementing this funding line

The following EXC have a focus on political science:

- "Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)" (EXC 2055), funded since 2019
speakers: Tanja A. Börzel, Michael Zürn, Berlin
contact: <https://www.scripts-berlin.eu/index.html>
- "The Politics of Inequality: Perceptions, Participation and Policies" (EXC 2035), funded since 2019
speakers: Marius Busmeyer, Claudia Diehl, Nils B. Weidmann, Konstanz
contact: <https://www.exc.uni-konstanz.de/en/inequality/>
- "ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy" (EXC 2126), funded since 2019
speaker: Thomas Dahmen, Andreas Schabert, Köln/Bonn
contact: <https://selten.institute/econtribute/>

GRADUATE TRAINING FUNDED BY THE DFG

Research Training Groups (RTG) (Graduiertenkollegs; GRK)

- established at universities
- may have foreign partner(s) – International Research Training Groups
- promote young researchers: doctoral training within the framework of a focused research programme and a structured training strategy
- encourage early scientific independence
- high demand for this funding programme, since it permits doctoral students to work on a family of related thesis topics, thereby encouraging fruitful discussions and collaboration between them
- supported by the DFG for up to 9 years (2 four-and-a-half-year periods)

Currently the following RTGs in or strongly related to political science are funded:

- "The Dynamics of Demography, Democratic Processes and Public Policy (DYNAMICS)" (RTG 2458), funded since 2019
speaker: Heike Klüver, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
contact: www.sowi.hu-berlin.de/en/dynamics
- "World politics: The emergence of political arenas and modes of observation in world society" (RTG 2225), funded since 2017
speaker: Mathias Albert, Universität Bielefeld
contact: www.uni-bielefeld.de/worldpolitics

GRADUATE TRAINING AT NON-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS)

- doctoral training at Max Planck Institutes in close collaboration with universities under excellent research conditions
- "International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE)"
contact: www.imprs.mpgf.de

Leibniz Graduate Schools

- doctoral training at Leibniz Institutes in close collaboration with universities under excellent research conditions
- GIGA Doctoral Programme
contact: www.giga-hamburg.de/en/dp/research-and-training



RESEARCH AT NON-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Leibniz Institutes

The Leibniz Association is an umbrella organisation of 95 research institutes. The annual budget amounts to 1.9 billion euros. Some 11,500 researchers – approximately 25% of them from abroad – work on a widely diverse range of subjects, including the humanities and social sciences, economics, spatial and life sciences, mathematics, natural and engineering sciences and environmental research.

- German Institute for Global and Area Studies / Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien (GIGA)
location: Hamburg
contact: www.giga-hamburg.de
- Leibniz Institute for Media Research | Hans-Bredow-Institut (HBI)
location: Hamburg
contact: www.leibniz-hbi.de
- Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS)
location: Erkner
contact: www.leibniz-irs.de
- Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (GESIS)
location: Mannheim
contact: www.gesis.org/en
- Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER)
location: Dresden
contact: www.ioer.de/1/ioer-overview
- Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)
location: Frankfurt/Main
contact: www.hsk.de
- WZB Berlin Social Science Center
location: Berlin
contact: www.wzb.eu/en

Max Planck Institutes

The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science is one of Germany's largest independent non-profit research organisations. The Max Planck Society has been allocated approximately 1.8 billion euros for 2018. A combined total of 15,300 researchers, postdoctoral/junior researchers and visiting researchers at 86 Max Planck Institutes conduct basic research in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities. One third of the researchers and more than half of the junior visiting researchers come from abroad.

- Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods
location: Bonn
contact: www.coll.mpg.de
- Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG)
location: Cologne
contact: www.mpiifg.de
- Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)
location: Rostock
contact: www.demogr.mpg.de/eng
- Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity
location: Göttingen
contact: www.mmg.mpg.de

DFG

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is the central self-governing research funding organisation in Germany. It serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects at universities and other research institutions. The DFG promotes excellence and quality by selecting the best research projects on a competitive basis and actively encourages international research cooperation. It is particularly dedicated to the promotion of young researchers and to gender equality in science and academia. It also advises legislatures and government agencies on scientific matters. In organisational terms, the DFG is an association under private law that receives the large majority of its funds from Germany's Federal (69,3%) and state (29,4%) governments. In 2019 the DFG's annual budget was 3.3 billion euros.

Sources: DFG Annual Report 2019, Brochure "Social and Behavioural Sciences" 2019, websites Leibniz Association, Max Planck Society, © DFG, August 2020

Contact

German Research Foundation (DFG)
DFG Head Office Germany
www.dfg.de
researchmarketing@dfg.de

Dr. Markus Stanat
- Humanities and Social Sciences 2: Social and Behavioural Sciences -
markus.stanat@dfg.de

