

Sommer Semester 2020

Economics and Transfer to the Public (6 Credit Points)

Instructors: Peter Haan (DIW and FU Berlin), Claus Michelsen (DIW), Katharina Wrohlich (DIW)

Course Description

Researchers face the challenge to translate their academic results to policy makers and to the public. Often the results are derived using complex models, which are based on strong assumptions. Therefore, it is necessary to develop methods and skills, which allow to explain the models and the assumptions to policy makers and to the public and to derive results and policy conclusions based on the models. This course provides an introduction to communication of academic research to the public and to evidence based policy consulting.

Prerequisites

A mandatory prerequisite for the course is a completed scientific working paper. This is the basis for the policy paper developed during the class. In addition students need to have an excellent background in theoretical and empirical methods (Required courses are: Econometrics I or II and two courses out of Micro I&II, Macro I&II or ManSci I&II.) The course is designed for PhD students in the second or third year depending on the status of their first research paper.

Organization of the Course

The course is interactive and applied. In the first session, students need to present a very short description of their research paper. This paper can be related to any field of economics and management. Importantly the paper should have some policy content. There are two requirements for the course, i) a policy paper and ii) a presentation of the policy paper during a mock press-conference.

The **policy paper** should not exceed 5 pages. The target audience for the paper are policy makers and journalist. Therefore it is necessary that the method, technical details and assumptions are presented in a nontechnical way. (Here are some examples of established policy papers, <https://voxeu.org/>, <https://www.nber.org/digest/>, <https://microeconomicinsights.org/>). The policy paper can be used as a basis for a DIW Wochenbericht, but publishing a Wochenbericht is not part of the course (however we will give an introduction how to write a Wochenbericht, see below).

The **mock press conference** will include a short oral presentation of the policy paper followed by questions of journalists and policy makers. For this event we will invite real external journalists and policy makers to simulate a real pre conference.

Note, the policy paper and the presentation can be in **German or English**.

During the course students will discuss the progress of the policy paper and the presentation for the press conference in small groups (4-5 participants) together with an instructor. There will be four class meetings, a presentation and an extra session with information about the Wochenbericht. Participation is mandatory. Before the first meeting students need to send a short abstract of the paper

1. **27.4.2020; 10.00-11.30 (DIW, Popper, 23020):** Organization, intro lecture: how to write a policy paper, short presentation of research ideas by students (based on the presentations we will form groups of students which will be supervised by instructor)
2. First draft of policy paper: Meeting in small groups to discuss policy paper (Instructor will coordinate the meeting)
3. Final policy paper: Meeting in small groups to discuss final policy (Instructor will coordinate the meeting)
4. Meeting in small groups to prepare presentation for press conference (Instructor will coordinate the meeting)
5. **19.6.2020: 14.00-17.00 (DIW, Ostrom):** Presentation of policy paper in press conference with external experts
6. **Wochenbericht session (extra): 23.6.2020: 10-13 (DIW):** Extending the policy paper to a Wochenbericht: How to write a Wochenbericht.