



ESA MONTHLY BULLETIN – JULY 2015

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<http://www.europeansociology.org/jobs.html>

Reopening of the Call for Nominations

ESA, Election of the New President and Executive Board, August 2015

Deadline: 15 August 2015

Exceptional circumstances have led to the ESA reopening the candidacy process for President, which closed on 31 May. For personal/family reasons, the two female candidates, Catherine Delcroix (University of Strasbourg) and Sue Scott (University of York) have withdrawn their candidacy. In order to carry out the elections in line with the statutes of the association, guaranteeing an equal representation of men and women, and balance of geographical areas, nominations are now open until 15 August. As it stands, there are currently two nominations for President: Hans-Peter Müller (HU Berlin) and Frank Welz (University of Innsbruck).

Candidates for the Presidency should be nominated and seconded by members of the Executive Committee, and/or Co-ordinators of Research Networks and/or National Associations. Each candidature must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae (max 100 words) and a photograph.

Please send proposals by e-mail to:

Carmen Leccardi
President of the Nominations Committee
carmen.leccardi@unimib.it
cc to the ESA office: esa@europeansociology.org

Call for Papers

SAW 2015

**IV International Scientific Conference of the series: Society and War
Cultural Conflicts and Problems with Multiculturalism in the Contemporary World
Wroclaw, Poland, 14 and 15 October 2015**

organized by:

Department of Sociology
**General Tadeusz Kosciuszko
Military Academy of Land Forces in Wroclaw**

and

Department of Sociology of Disposable Groups
**The Institute of Sociology
University of Wroclaw**

Fakultät Für Soziale Arbeit
Hochschule Ravensburg – Weingarten

SWPS University in Wroclaw

Faculty of International and Political Science

University of Lodz

Polish Association for Security Studies

Polish Sociological Association

Honorary Patronage of the Conference:

1. Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of National Defence Mr. Maciej Jankowski
2. Head of Parliamentary National Defence Commission Mr. Stefan Niesiołowski
3. Head of National Security Bureau Mr. Stanisław Koziej

Media Patronage

Military Publishing Institute

The conference will be held on **14-15 October 2015**
at the Conference Centre “Dom Pielgrzyma” in **Góra św. Anny, Poland.**

The Conference “**Society and War**” is the continuation of the scientific annual meetings organized by the Department of Sociology at the Military Academy of Land Forces (MALF) in Wroclaw. The main aim of the conference, that is the fourth in the series, is to analyze relations between: society and conflicts, society and crisis. Former conferences have resulted in four scientific monographs and many other articles, published in the Journal of Science of the Military Academy of Land Forces. The main theme of this conference is: **Cultural conflicts and problems with multiculturalism in the modern**

world. It is based on the reflection about problems with conflicts of culture and cultural heterogeneity. Pursuant to complexity and interdisciplinary character of aforementioned issues, as well as to satisfy research expectations, the predominant purpose of the conference attempts to answer the following question:

Does multiculturalism become necessary in the present world – a determinant of symbiosis and coexistence in culturally diverse nations or a contribution to create negative phenomena at the junction of cultures?

Conference themes:

1. Redefinition of multiculturalism – new research directions.
2. Problems with cultural assimilation in Europe.
3. Migrations and their implications for “old democracies”.
4. A change of European hegemonic paradigm in Europe.
5. “Dying strongholds” of Western civilisation – European metropolises without Europeans.
6. A conflict of cultures – old and new dimensions of cultural dichotomy.
7. “Mirror images of the colonialism” – an expansion of foreign cultures in searching a new identity.

Organisational arrangements:

Participants are requested to apply for the conference via e-mail on the following address: konferencja.saw@gmail.com.

The following forms of presentations are planned during the conference: a presentation (15 minutes), a scientific/research announcements (10 minutes), problem discussions.

1. Appropriate volume of a paper – a minimum is a half of publishing spreadsheet (22 000 signs) – guarantees a publication in a scientific monograph, graded for 20 educational points (an article = a chapter in a monograph = 4 points).
2. A presentation submission for the conference must also include a paper abstract in Polish.
3. Conference or only publication submissions must be sent till 15 September 2015, a paper submission deadline is 30 September 2015.
4. The publishing guidelines are in Annex.
5. The publication of a paper in English is also possible, but after the language revision.
6. The Organizing Committee may not accept a paper that does not meet the publishing guidelines, but an author will be noticed.
7. Accepted papers will be published in a scientific monograph after the conference.

In order to facilitate the process of editing participants are kindly requested to prepare their manuscripts in MS WORD text editor in accordance with the publishing guidelines issued in Annex. Manuscripts will be eligible for publication after review. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to evaluate texts of presentations (announcements etc.) and publications. **The authors will not be remunerated for the papers and presentations/announcements delivered at the conference.** All participants will receive post-conference proceedings that are included in the conference fee. A student session is planned during the conference.

Important! While editing papers please comply with publishing guidelines provided in Annex. Otherwise, any additional corrections of received papers may delay the publication process and hamper editorial works on a monograph.

1. The detailed programme of the conference and additional organizational information will be sent to participants by 20 September 2015. Furthermore, the programme will be also available at the MALF web page www.wso.wroc.pl and at the conference co-organizers web pages.
2. The conference fee is 500 PLN. It includes participation in the conference, paper publication, printed conference proceedings, refreshments between conference sessions, participation in the official conference reception on 14 October 2015, a breakfast on the second day of the conference and dinners on 14-15 October 2015.
3. To publish a paper in a post-conference monograph without a participation in the conference is also possible but it is subject to pay.

All information about the conference are provided by:
ppłk dr Marek Bodziany – m.bodziany@interia.pl, tel. +48 668129087

Conference fee

The conference fee should be paid by **15 September 2015:**

Wyższa Szkoła Oficerska Wojsk Lądowych, ul. Czajkowskiego 109, 51-150 Wrocław,
Taxpayer Identification Number: 896-10-00-117
Bank Account Number: 74102052260000650203300381

with note: **Konferencja – Społeczeństwo a wojna (Conference – Society and War)**

Important! In the title of money transfer please write your name and address if you wish to receive an invoice.

Conference Announcement



WCSA - WORLD COMPLEXITY SCIENCE ACADEMY

VI CONFERENCE
16th-17th OCTOBER 2015
AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS
NH Amsterdam Centre, Stadhouderskade, 7, 1054ES

SYSTEMIC ACTIONS IN COMPLEX SCENARIOS:

Converging interactions among public policies, business strategies and academic research

CONFERENCE PROGRAM CHAIRS (CPCS)

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Alfredo Spilzinger, *Lord of Brownseel, WCSA Scientific Director, SFAI Chairman Executive Board*

Gehrad Chroust, *J. Kepler University, Linz, Austria, IFSR Secretary General*

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Giulia Mancini, *G. d'Annunzio University, Chieti-Pescara, Italy*

WCSA HONORARY BOARD OF ADVISORS

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DARIO RODRIGUEZ MANSILLA, *University Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile*
ALEXANDER RIEGLER, *Free University of Brussels, Belgium*

To be a conscientious agent in contemporary scenarios involves the awareness of the complex systemic context and the non-linear interactions in which our attempts to build a better world integrate. To be aware of this complexity should prevent the naivety of not considering risks and contingency and is a first step to the development of successful strategic actions.

This conference challenges worldwide scholars, professionals, policy makers and businessmen sharing a systemic vision to, directly or indirectly, answer this question:

How a systemic vision can be a strategic and applied resource to develop more and more powerful links among Government Policymaking, Academic Research and Investment /Business Strategies?

That is why the call is open to different kinds of systemic proposals:

- a) theoretical academic research papers
- b) applied academic research papers
- c) investment plans
- d) policy models
- e) consulting strategies
- f) business plans
- g) consulting work packages

The purpose of this conference is to reach a multitasking and multidimensional audience composed from academics, professionals, managers, entrepreneurs, investors to facilitate the match finding among strategic research, policy modelling institutional demand and investment/business ideas and plans.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Individuals may submit abstract as the first author.

Abstracts must not exceed a maximum of 250 words.

Provide your full name, degree, institution, address, telephone number, and email address.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT: August 25th

PANEL SESSION

It is possible to submit panel proposals: The Organizer submits the panel proposal, he/she enters all information about the panel including the abstract of the concept (minimum 400 words), the name of the panel chair and a possible listing of all panel participants.

DEADLINE FOR PANEL PROPOSAL: August 15th

Panel speakers are limited to 15/20 minutes for their presentations and 5 minutes for a roundtable debate of their presentations with the chairperson and the audience.

The official language of the conference is English.

For full announcement, [click here](#)

CONTACT

- email: wcsaconferences@gmail.com
- website: <http://www.wcsaglobal.org>

Call for papers



Meeting on the 50th Anniversary of the Slovenian Sociological Association
Sociology between Producing Knowledge and Shaping Society
6 and 7 November 2015 Ljubljana, Cankarjev dom

For fifty years, the Slovenian Sociological Association has guided the development of sociology as a scientific discipline and ensured the promotion and implementation of sociological findings in society. With reflection on numerous phenomena and processes, we have encouraged credible and inclusive public debate for half a century.

We would like to take advantage of the opportunity presented by this year's jubilee annual meeting entitled *Sociology between Producing Knowledge and Shaping Society* primarily by reflecting on our work to date and thus preparing for future challenges. In so doing, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to a polyphony of outlooks and approaches, as only in this way will we be able, from a theoretical perspective, to conceive of a heterogeneous society and participate practically in its further development.

At this year's meeting, we would like to focus on the various forms of our scientific output and their role in contributing to the shaping of society. In this regard, we have in mind a society that will create the conditions not only for technological advancement, but also for social innovation; a society that will know how to understand, respect and learn from the past, but will primarily direct its energy towards the present and above all the future; a society that will not be based on excluding "others" and those who are "different"; a society whose highest value will be the common good.

On calling for papers, we therefore emphasise that we welcome both theoretical and empirical-analytical papers, covering both the comparative and practical aspects of sociology that in the last five decades have marked the "sociological imagination" as well as the thinking, study and lives of the members of the Slovenian Sociological Association.

Abstracts of papers (800–1000 characters, with spaces) linked with the main title or with the areas of the specific streams (http://www.sociolosko-drustvo.si/o_drustvu/sekcije/) should be sent to the stream leaders or contact persons listed below by **6 September 2015**.

The organisers also seek to organise an "international" panel (in English) at which selected papers by participants from Slovenia and from other countries will be presented. Abstracts of papers (up to 300 words) in English, related to our main topic, should be sent to the panel coordinator, Milica Antić Gaber at: milica.antic-gaber@guest.arnes.si by **6 September 2015**. The organisers will rank all of the abstracts and inform the successful applicants by **25 September 2015**.

The organisers will submit a selection of conference papers to a review procedure for a thematic special issue of the [journal Družboslovne razprave](#). The foreseen deadline for interested authors to submit papers is 1 June 2016. More detailed information will be published at a later date.

For more information [click here](#)

Call for Papers



11th Annual Conference of the Italian Society of Law and Economics (ISLE-SIDE)
Economic Analysis of Law
Department of Economic Science of the University of Naples - Federico II
18 and 19 November 2015

The Italian Society of Law and Economics (ISLE - SIDE) welcomes submissions of papers on any topic regarding the Economic Analysis of Law for its 11th annual conference to be held in Napoli (Italy) on **December 18-19, 2015**, at the Department of Economic Science of the **University of Naples - Federico II**.

ISLE invites contributions in all aspects related to Law and Economics, such as Bankruptcy, Behavioural Law and Economics, Competition Policy and Antitrust Law and Economics, Corporate Governance and Corporate Law, Criminal Law, Environmental Law and Economics, Constitutional Law and Economics, Family Law and Economics, History of Law and Economics Thought, Institutional and New-Institutional Economics, Intellectual Property, Judicial Decision-Making, Law & Social Norms, Law and Finance, Regulation, Securities Law, and Taxation.

Submissions must be original and not published elsewhere. People from the Local Organizing Committee and the Advisory Board will select the papers to be presented at the Conference. Priority will be given to completed papers. Please note that, as in previous years, both Italian and English submissions are welcome. The program will guarantee at least one English session for each time slot.

A draft or completed paper shall be submitted online through our [website](#).

Important Dates:

- Paper submission deadline: October 2, 2015
- Communication of acceptance: October 16, 2015
- Final papers due by: November 27, 2015
- Registration before: December 4, 2015
- Conference: December 18-19, 2015

Start here to submit a paper to this conference: <http://www.side-isle.it/ocs2/index.php/SIDE/side2015>

Call for Papers

Conference of the Research Committee "Political Sociology" of the German Sociological Association and Special Issue of the Journal Historical Social Research (HSR)

"Critique and Social Change"

Organizers: Thomas Kern, Insa Pruisken, Thomas Laux Institute of Sociology, TU Chemnitz

How does critique change society? This question lies at the core of sociological thinking dealing with the possibilities and necessities for social and cultural change. Prominent sociological theories place critique at the center of their analyses by pointing at more or less contradicting principles which characterize modern societies, e.g. rationalization and subjectivation (Touraine 1995) or system and life-world (Habermas 1987). Despite many differences, these "critical" approaches in social theory share the perception that the sovereignty and self-determination of the modern subject is threatened by powerful forces such as alienation, commodification, and objectivation (see also Foucault 1982; Ehrenberg 2009). Critique inevitably arises from the individual's pursuits for authenticity and autonomy.

Such general social theories are often criticized because their presuppositions and analytical distinctions largely determine the substance of their findings (Alexander 1982). The empirical process of observing and assessing why and how actors (e.g. social movements, intellectuals, NGOs) voice their critique is at least partly neglected. Thus, these social theories run the risk of oversimplifying and overgeneralizing the historical and cultural circumstances that shape the social causes and consequences of critique. In order to bridge the gap between ideas and facts, an empirical "sociology of critique" (Boltanski 2011) is needed that captures the variety of conditions and contexts in which individual and collective actors articulate their discontent with society (Rosa 2009: 278). Subsequently, empirical studies may enrich theoretical debates by pointing at different social sources and illustrating divergent dynamics of critique in different fields or by discovering ambivalences in its impact.

Over the past three decades, the sociological interest in empirical studies of critique has considerably increased. However, there are hardly any studies trying to connect the different theoretical perspectives on critique. Such connections seem promising for gaining further insights in the causes, mechanisms, and consequences of social critique. So far three crucial bodies of research can be identified which focus on different analytical aspects:

Firstly, the rise of the so-called new social movements in the 1970s initiated a wave of theoretical and empirical studies in which the growing preference for individual autonomy and subjectivity in Western societies was connected to a macro-structural shift from the industrial to a post-industrial or programmed society (Touraine 1971; Melucci 1996; Castells 1997). The class-oriented revolutionary movements of earlier days were considered to be outdated. Their focus on material needs and social progress seemed to be displaced by "cultural movements" in search of collective identities (Touraine 1995; Johnston et al. 1994). Typical examples are the women's, environmental, and peace movement (Kriesi et al. 1995; Rucht 1994). This research program's strong emphasis on "collective identities" as a source of protest and critique in modern society considerably has shaped recent discourses on social movements in the age of globalization (Castells 2012, 1997; Crossley 2003).

Secondly, based on the pragmatic turn in French sociology, the *Economie des Conventions* has suggested a sociology of critique, which outlines a concept for understanding valuation and justification as a foundation for institutional orders (Boltanski and Thevenot 2006; Diaz-Bone 2015). Assuming that institutional orders have constantly to be justified vis-à-vis their critics, Boltanski and Chiapello (2005) explain the "new" spirit of capitalism with its capability to appropriate the criticism of the upcoming protest movement of 1968. They consider "ambiguous situations" (Boltanski and Thevenot 1999: 374) to be a central source of critique that produces a "process of realizing that something is going wrong" (ibid: 360). In such situations, social movements or intellectuals bring new ideas and articulate a "better" plan for the future. Rao et

al. (2003) convincingly exemplified this pattern in their study about the transformation of French gastronomy as part of an identity movement. This line of research has considerably influenced economic sociology and produced an ever growing body of literature that studies the influence of critique in economy and society (Diaz-Bone and Salais 2012; Kern 2014; Knoll 2015).

Thirdly, calling for a "performative turn" (Alexander et al. 2006; Alexander and Smith 2002) a growing movement of cultural sociologists in the United States and beyond conceptualize social protest and critique as a kind of "civil art" that creates new meanings by linking deep cultural structures with the institutional conditions of contemporary society. Their approach provides a comprehensive theoretical and empirical understanding of symbolic processes that make up the performative power of critique in the public sphere. This approach has been successfully applied in order to uncover and explain, for example, the cultural dynamics of democratization in South Korea (Kern 2009), boundary politics in the public sphere of Hong Kong (Ku 1998), and the performative structures of the recent revolution in Egypt (Alexander 2011). In line with Eisenstadt (1982), this approach conceives the process of institutionalization itself as the original source of critique because it produces a continual tension between the "real" world and its ideal premises. As other interpretations of the world are always possible, the cultural "surplus of meaning" (Ricoeur 1976) constitutes a major source of inspiration and innovation. So even if we accept that societies have to deal with specific functional needs and problems, there are always many different ways to define and resolve them.

Critique is a permanent feature of various social fields in modern society (such as economics, politics, religion, science, law, art, and civil society) and it takes highly diverse forms of expression. We understand critique as a constitutive part of human practice. It refers to the general ability of individual and collective actors to dissociate themselves (at least to some extent) from their social environment. This dissociation is the cultural basis for every kind of resistance, resilience, protest, and conflict. Relevant social carriers of critique are typically social movements, intellectuals or the mass media. They voice dissatisfaction with the state of society and use critique to change or to conserve institutional and cultural principles. Their critique challenges "the logic of order" (Touraine 1995: 235) in different social fields, initiates their re-evaluation and causes institutional change in this way. Nonetheless, there are still only few empirical studies dealing with the institutional and cultural consequences of public critique in detail.

We welcome empirical studies that deal with the question how critique changes society and that contribute to theoretical development. The idea of this conference is to bring together different approaches, e.g. civil society and social movement research, cultural sociology, sociology of conventions, economic sociology, or intellectual history in order to analyze *why* and *how* specific actors cause institutional and cultural change through critique. This call aims at broadening the theoretical perspectives beyond existing approaches, reflecting the link of theory and data in empirical studies, and searching for innovative methodologies for the analysis of critique. Contributions should address the following topics:

1. *Critique and change*: Critique is one of the main causes for social change, but does not automatically lead to actual institutional or cultural changes. How is critique related to resilience or resistance towards change? How is critique related to incremental and/or radical changes of society?
2. *Institutionalization of critique*: To specify the role of critique, one can identify different degrees of institutionalization: What dynamics can be observed concerning the institutionalization or deinstitutionalization of critique and its carriers in historical or comparative perspective?
3. *Social carriers of critique*: Which actors voice critique? What characterizes their performance? How has the articulation of critique and its meanings changed through time?
4. *Methodological perspectives*: Empirical analyses of critique mostly apply discourse analysis. What other methods are suitable, e.g., social network analysis, qualitative or quantitative methods, international comparative research, (participant) observation or action research? Which role do specific research methods play in analyzing social critique? What conceptual problems occur by analyzing criticism in a historical perspective?
5. *Critique and its standards*: Basically, critique is grounded on certain standards and expectations which are not stable. How do these standards change? What are the reasons for shifting standards and what are the effects towards processes of valuation and evaluation?

If you are interested in contributing a paper, please send an extended abstract (400 - 500 words) to Thomas Kern (thomas.kern@soziologie.tu-chemnitz.de) by October 15th 2015.

Preliminary schedule:

- October 15th 2015 – submission of abstracts with paper proposals
- November 10th 2015 – notification of acceptance of paper proposals
- April 15th 2016 – submission of the full paper
- June 23th – June 24th 2016 – Conference “Critique and Social Change” with presentations of the accepted papers
- September 30th 2016 – submission of the final version of the paper
- 2017 – publishing of the Special Issue

About the Journal: *Historical Social Research* (HSR) is an international peer-reviewed journal, which is edited by the GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Cologne, Germany). It is listed in the most important data bases, such as SocINDEX with FULL TEXT (EBSCO), Social Science Citation Index (Thomson Reuters), Scopus (Elsevier), Sociological Abstracts (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts), Historical Abstracts (ABC-CLIO), International Political Science Abstracts (SAGE), Social Research Methodology Database (SAGE/NIWI). The journal is, among others, to be found on JSTOR and SSOAR. For further information: <http://www.gesis.org/hsr/>.

Call for Applications

The NASP/GSSPS Call for Applications for 30 Ph.D. positions for academic year 2015-2016 Milan, Italy

Deadline: August 31, 2015

Open to: students with background in Economic Sociology, Labour Studies, Political Studies, Sociology and Methodology of Social Research

Scholarships: approx 13.500 euro per year, renewable for up to three years.

Description

The Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Sciences (NASP) is accepting applications for admission to the Ph.D. Programmes in:

- Economic Sociology and Labour Studies (13 scholarship positions)
- Political Studies (10 scholarship positions)
- Sociology and Methodology of Social Research (7 scholarship positions)

NASP offers a total of 30 Ph.D. positions covered by scholarships. Full information on how to submit applications is provided by the Call for Application. **The application deadline is August 31st, 2015.**

NASP is a research-based training network that involves eight universities in Northern Italy: Brescia, Università Cattolica, Genova, Milano, Milano-Bicocca, Pavia, Piemonte Orientale and Torino. NASP is administratively based at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Milan (SPS).

Economic Sociology and Labour Studies

The mission of the programme is to give students both a strong disciplinary focus (in sociology, labour law, management and organizational behaviour, psychology of work) and a substantive attention to socio-economic behaviour and processes, in particular from the point of view of labour and organizations. Six broad areas of specialization are offered. Each student will choose the one who best suits her research interests and use it as a starting point for her research project. Of course trespassing and contamination are allowed and encouraged.

- Social institutions and the economy
- Labour studies
- Complex organizations
- Economic behaviour and social interaction
- Local development and global society
- Occupations, education and social stratification

Political Studies

The aim of the doctoral Programme is to train highly-skilled professionals who can undertake research within academic institutions, think tanks and research centers, as well as provide consultancy for political, economic, public or private organizations at the national and international levels.

The programme offers a two-levels training: first, the acquisition of a common background on the most up-to-date knowledge and methods in the field of political science and political philosophy. Second, a more personalized training subdivided in four main paths of specialization, and the possibility to experiment cross-curricular paths linking together traditionally unrelated disciplines.

These four main paths are:

- Institutions and Public Policy
- International Studies
- Public Opinion, Political Communication and Political Behaviour
- Political Theory

Sociology and Methodology of Social Research

The aim of the programme is to provide structured training in theoretically-guided empirical research across a wide range of sociological fields and to introduce students to current international debates in both qualitative and quantitative social research. Graduates from the programme will be able to compete successfully for positions as researchers (in public and private universities and research centres), skilled professionals and consultants in sociology to public agencies and international organizations and institutions in Italy and elsewhere in Europe.

Research areas covered by the Ph.D. Programme now include:

- Cultural Processes.
- Media and the Public Sphere.
- Methodology of Social Research
- Social Change and Inequalities
- Urban Spaces

In 2015-2016, the Ph.D. programme offers 2 PhD positions for joint degrees with two LERU partner universities – Lund University and University of Amsterdam.

All courses are taught in English for all of the Ph.D. Programmes, while the dissertation might be written in English as well as in Italian, depending on the topic and on the supervisor's judgement.

For more information on the call for application please visit the official webpage at:
<http://www.nasp.eu/training/how-to-apply/calls-for-application.html>

Call for Contributions

Science, Numbers and Politics

International Research Project Funded by the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Background and Project Description

Over the past few decades, following a more general trend towards social rationalization, a growing *Verwissenschaftlichung* ("scientization") of politics can be observed – that is, the ways in which science and quantitative measures increasingly come to define and shape politics. Today, empirics and evidence almost always accompany policy making, and quantification and the use of statistics have become increasingly central to the practice of contemporary politics.

The primary objective of this interdisciplinary research project, funded by the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, is to **assess the relationship between politics and science with special regard to "quantification" and "rationalization"**. How has this relationship evolved over time, and what are the opportunities and risks of an intensifying interaction between the political and scientific world? Of particular interest is the role played by "numbers" within contemporary education policies, by reason of their close interrelation with economic, social and cultural policies more generally.

Scholars of all disciplines are invited to **submit proposals for research contributions related to any of the project's three main sections specified below**. Both empirical and theoretical approaches addressing the theme of the research project are welcome. Proposals should clearly outline the relevance and key features of the suggested contribution (significance of the topic, specific research questions and objectives, choice of methodology) and indicate how it will contribute to the overall project.

This project is collaborative and interdisciplinary, offering participants an opportunity to develop their initial proposals within workshop-conferences that emphasize intellectual exchange, feedback, discussion, and debate. In order to allow for the necessary collegial exchanges and to guarantee the complementarity of all contributions, **two interconnected project conferences** will be taking place in Heidelberg (Germany). The first will be held from **28-30 April 2016**, at which time invited participants will present the outlines of their research in moderated panel workshops, and debate across panels in topically organised roundtables. In **early 2017**, contributors will gather a second time to present the progress of their research within their respective panels and contribute to the concluding plenary debate. **The conference organisers will cover all travel and accommodation costs for participants. The results of the research project will be published.**

Section I: Historical Genesis

This section takes up the historical development of numerical-quantitative approaches within politics, and will investigate the ways in which quantitative and qualitative descriptions of the social world have evolved together over time. Specifically, we seek proposals that address one or more of the following questions:

- How have mathematics, measurement and statistics historically shaped the development of quantitative approaches to politics and economy, and how might these histories illuminate the possibilities and limitations of quantitative analysis?
- How did probability, prediction and quantification help to shape evolving notions of truth, fairness, objectivity and utility? How and why have quantitative descriptions of social processes come to be understood as “neutral” or “objective”?
- What social, political and economic factors have historically contributed most to the appeal of or objections to quantitative types of analysis?
- How have processes of quantification been shaped by particular national or regional histories, as well as the networks of social institutions and/or relations that are the expressions of these histories?

Section II: Politics and Science Today

This section examines the current state of evidence-based decision-making in contemporary politics with an emphasis on the process of *Verwissenschaftlichung* (“scientization”). It evaluates the advantages, disadvantages, and dynamics of the special relation between politics and (quantifying) science. With this in mind, contributions dealing with one or more of the following issues are welcome:

- How and by whom are quantitative “indicators” used in contemporary policy-making? How does the choice of indicators affect the implementation of policies? What, if any, are the effects of chosen indicators on the perception of an issue within politics and society?
- How is the relation between science/academia and politics shaped by their respective value systems and logics, and what is the dynamics of their interaction (e.g. emergence of “arms races” in evidence collection on different sides of the political spectrum)?
- How is scientific uncertainty incorporated into political decision-making? How are scientific debates/disagreements perceived in the public and political sphere?
- What is the state of evidence-based policy advice today? What is the role and impact of “internal” (e.g. parliamentary/governmental research services) vis-à-vis “external” sources of information and analysis (e.g. advocacy groups)? How are patterns of prestige, legitimation, verification and transmission formed and maintained, and to what extent are these processes at cross-purposes with the data?

Section III: Case Study – European Education Policies

This section looks at the role of numbers and quantitative decision-making in European and especially EU education policies. We seek contributions addressing one or more of the following points:

- How significant are numbers in European education policies (e.g. the Education and Training 2020 strategic framework), and what is the role of scientific rationality and quantification at the European level, as compared to national or regional levels?

- How do the peculiarities of the European political sphere (e.g., often strongly diverging national priorities and interests, or the lack of a common language) affect the decision-making process as well as the latter's susceptibility to *Verwissenschaftlichung* and a preference for evidence-based decisions?
- Which players bring quantitative numbers and evidence-based arguments through which channels into the decision-making process? How important are other political organisations, NGOs, and scientific policy advisers to the making of European education policies? Who are the main external protagonists, and what social, national and/or institutional locations do they occupy?

Practicalities

Please send **1) your proposal (up to 600 words)**, accompanied by **2) a short bio (no more than 250 words)** and **3) information on your affiliation/position** as well as **main areas of research/professional expertise** and a list of any **relevant publications**, to: numbers-and-politics@adw.uni-heidelberg.de.

Kindly indicate **full contact details** in your proposal and clearly highlight the section you are applying to in the email subject header, which should have the following format: "Proposal [Family Name], Section [I, II or III]". The **deadline** for proposal submission is **30 September 2015**. Proposals will be reviewed by the Project's organising committee, and selected contributors will be notified in November 2015. For further information on the research project and extended section descriptions, please consult the project website: <http://www.haw.uni-heidelberg.de/forschung/win-kolleg/win-politics/welcome.en.html>