



WZB

Berlin Social Science Center

PADEMIA TRAINING WORKSHOP 2015

12-13 November 2015

ANALYZING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY WITH ADVANCED CONTENT ANALYSIS METHODS

WZB BERLIN SOCIAL SCIENCE CENTER, GERMANY

Call for Paper Proposals

THEME OF THE WORKSHOP

This workshop focuses on practical, methodological considerations in the rigorous analysis of parliamentary democracy in Europe. It addresses the different forms and shapes of the discourses produced in and by parliaments. This ranges from transcripts of plenary debates and committee reports to media and online resonance of parliamentary affairs. These empirically observable outputs of parliamentary activity come mostly as written documents but also in the form of live streams and other vehicles amenable to systematic content analysis methods. We thus discuss the methodological challenges in approaching this wealth of empirical material, including most notably concerns about sampling as well as the reliability and validity of measurement instruments.

Based on the fundamentals of quantitative content analyses, the workshop will cover and compare a variety of empirical methods ranging from human coding approaches, particularly in the form of representative claims analysis, to various forms of automated text analysis.

We invite doctoral students interested in parliamentary affairs, who either plan or already have used content analysis methods in their PhD research. You may apply with either your content analysis research design or with the initial findings of your project.

This training workshop will allow doctoral students of parliamentary affairs in Europe to exchange ideas and discuss their research with their peers and senior academic colleagues with a practical focus on methodological options, techniques and considerations.

INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Pieter de Wilde, WZB Berlin Social Science Center (<http://www.wzb.eu/en/persons/pieter-de-wilde>)
Dr. Christian Rauh, WZB Berlin Social Science Center (<http://www.wzb.eu/en/persons/christian-rauh>)

HOW TO APPLY

Papers from all areas of the social sciences are eligible. The empirical focus should be on parliamentary activity broadly construed, be it at the subnational, national or international level. We require an abstract of 500 words describing the major research question and the data and methods (to be) used as well as your CV in a single PDF file submitted via email. Please indicate briefly in the abstract how you deal with the challenges of sampling, reliability and validity. Paper proposals will be assessed on the basis of quality and fit with the workshop theme.

Applications should be sent by 15 August to Ms. Senem Tepe, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, senem.tepe@wzb.eu (subject: "Pademia PhD workshop 2015"). Full papers will be required no later than 23 October.

WORKSHOP FORMAT

The workshop will start with short introductions to a) parliamentary discourses and communication activities and b) quantitative content analysis and its key methodological challenges. On this basis, the workshop will then discuss the pre-circulated papers based on presentations (20-25 min.), followed by comments from one of the instructors and an open Q&A (20 min.).

The working language of the workshop will be English.

EXPENSES

The workshop is free of charge. Travel and lodging costs of up to 500 euro per participant from PADEMIA member institutions will be reimbursed within the rules of the German Travel Expenses Law (BRKG). Applicants from non-PADEMIA institutions will be admitted if there is place left.

TIMELINE

Deadline for the submission of abstracts: 13 August 2015.

Acceptance decisions will be communicated by: 3 September 2015.

Deadline for the submission of papers: 23 October 2015.

Workshop in Berlin: 12-13 November 2015.

PADEMIA is a Europe-wide network of 56 academic institutions from 31 countries to promote research and teaching in reaction to growing European demands to study parliamentary democracy in Europe. It is financially supported by the European Union Lifelong Learning Programme. PADEMIA seeks to enhance discussion among students, junior and senior researchers, also in exchange with stakeholders, on how to deal with the new challenges that parliaments and citizens across Europe are facing today.
www.pademia.eu