

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Welcome Session 2023

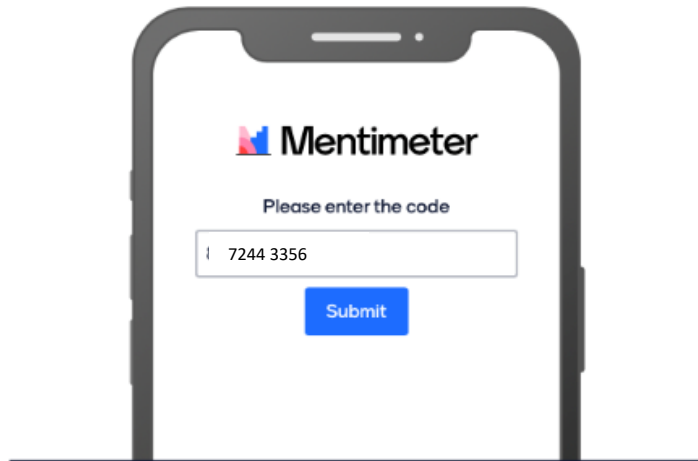
- Prof Chitralekha Basu, PhD
- Dr Stephan Vogel (Program Director)



Agenda

1. The Master Program
2. The Institute and its Faculty
3. Program Structure
4. Thesis Advising
5. Selecting Courses
6. Studies Abroad
7. Newsletter and further Information

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MA Political Science

- Empirical-analytical focus with high degree of substantive flexibility
- **Analyzing major societal, political, and economic challenges** (democracy and elections, political instability, populism, economic crises, European integration, globalization, inequality, and climate change)
- International environment (around 33% share of international students, faculty with international experience)
- Mandatory research methods training (research design, quantitative methods, qualitative methods)
- Thesis project
- Guest lectures and workshops
- Connect your studies with opportunities at the **Cologne Center for Comparative Politics** and Cluster of Excellence **ECONtribute: Markets and Public Policy**

The Institute for Political Science and European Affairs

- Over 100 years of academic enquiry into politics at Cologne
- Currently 6 professors, 2 emeriti, about 60 academic staff, doctoral students, and affiliates
- Two buildings: IBW + Institute Building (under renovation)
- Located on the northern campus at Aachener Weiher
- Joint library with management department

Meet the Faculty

Cologne Center for Comparative Politics



Prof André Kaiser
Comparative Political Institutions



Prof Christine Trampusch
Comparative Political Economy



Prof Chitralekha Basu
Empirical Democratic Theory



Prof Thomas Jäger
International Relations



Prof Sven-Oliver Proksch
European and Multi-Level Politics



Prof Michael Bechtel
Political Economy

Prof Chitrlekha Basu, PhD



- Academic background in history, political theory, and empirical political science
- Research interests:
 1. Relationship between political elites, parties and public opinion; implications for political equality and representation
 - E.g., projects on (i) inequalities of communicative power and representation; (ii) media effects on the economic vote
 2. Relationship between socioeconomic interests & political outcomes
 - E.g., projects on (i) relationship between inequality and democratization in Britain; (ii) the impact of the Great Migration on US political parties

Prof Chitrlekha Basu, PhD

■ Winter Term 2023-24:

■ Democratic Theory and Practice (lecture)

- What does “democracy” mean, and why should we value it?
- What institutions and social conditions are conducive to democracy?
- Topics covered: (1) theories of democracy; (2) effects of democracy; (3) challenges to democracy

■ Democracy in the Twenty First Century (seminar)

- Introduces students to cutting-edge research on recent transformations in democratic politics
- Topics covered: impact of rising inequality, new technologies and COVID-19 on democratic politics; the ‘crisis’ of social democracy in Europe; the rise of populism; democratic erosion and backsliding in Europe and the US

■ Summer Term 2024:

■ Strategic Models of Democratic Politics

- Introduce students to use of rational choice theory to study politics
- Learn to solve and interpret simple mathematical models
- Engage with debates on the use of rational choice models in political science

■ Elections as Instruments of Democracy

- When are elections more or less effective as “instruments of democracy”?
- Topics covered: theories of representation; inequalities in representation; campaign and media effects on voter preferences and behaviour

Prof Dr Michael Bechtel



Academic Director of MA Political Science

Research Interest

- Comparative and International Political Economy
- Climate Politics, Economic Policy
- Survey Design and Experiments, Causal Inference, Time Series Analysis
- Particular interest in how countries can address global economic and environmental sustainability problems
 - Support for international climate cooperation
 - Politics of natural disasters
 - Policy responses to economic crises
- Further information on his [website](#)

MA Courses

- Climate Politics (winter term 2023-24)

Program Structure

<p>Core Section 18 ECTS</p> <p>Choose 3 (of 5) Introductory Lectures:</p>	<p>Core Section 18 ECTS</p> <p>Take 3 methods courses:</p>
<p>Comparative Political Institutions</p>	<p>Research Design</p>
<p>Comparative Political Economy</p>	<p>Quantitative Methods</p>
<p>Democratic Theory and Practice</p>	<p>Qualitative Methods</p>
<p>International Relations</p>	
<p>European Politics</p>	
<p>Specialisation Section 24 ECTS</p> <p>Choose 2 Advanced Seminars and 2 Research Projects offered in the thematic areas "Political Institutions and Representation" and "Comparative Political Economy and International Relations"</p>	
<p>Political Institutions and Representation</p>	<p>Comparative Political Economy and International Relations</p>
<p>Supplementary Section 24 ECTS</p> <p>Select courses from adjacent areas at WiSo and other faculties such as Economics, Economic Psychology, Data Analytics, or Sociology</p>	
<p>Specialisation Section Present your MA Thesis project in a Research Seminar 6 ECTS</p>	
<p>Master Thesis Write your MA thesis in your Specialisation 30 ECTS</p>	

Program elements

Courses (lectures, seminars)

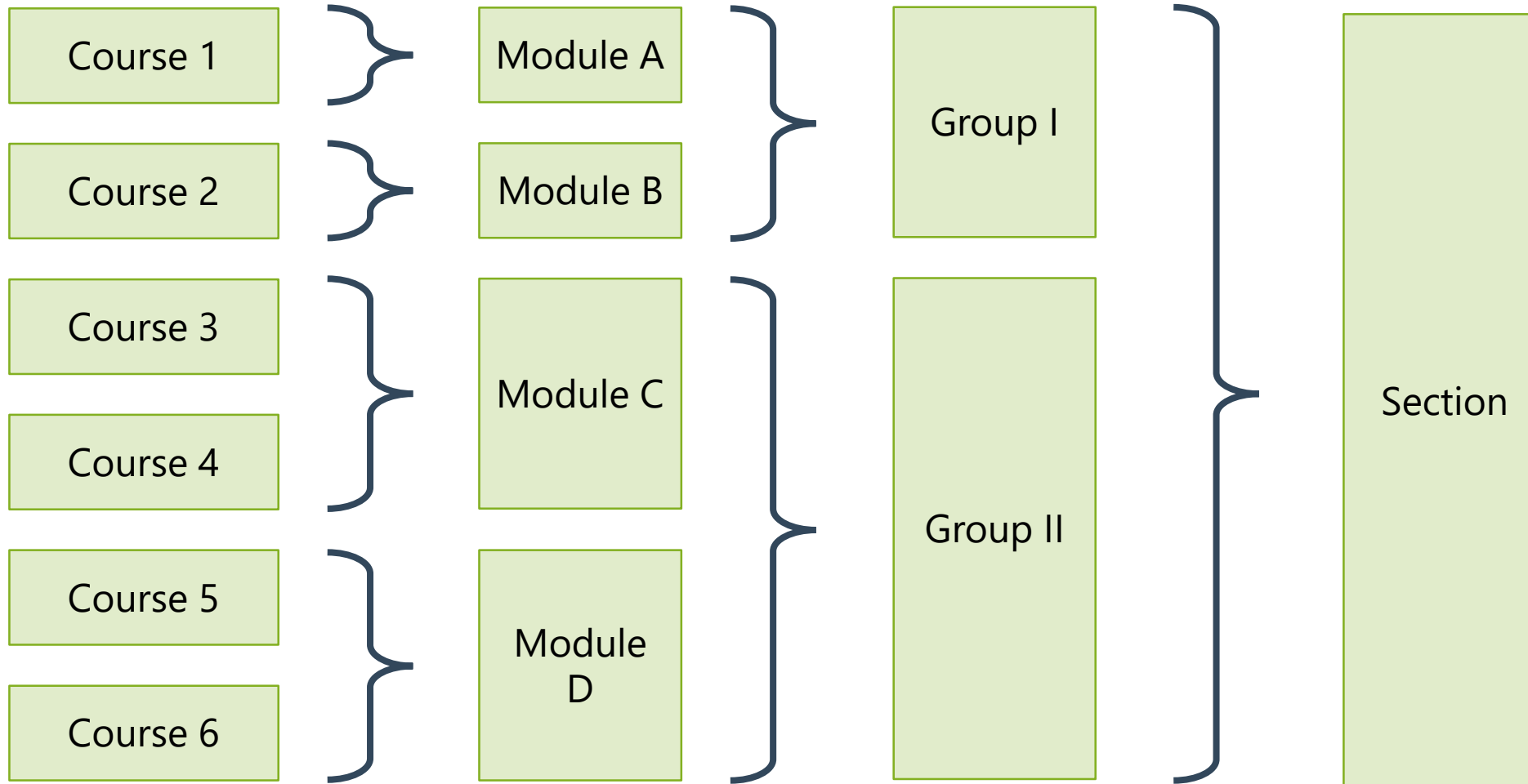
< Modules (may include several courses)

(< Groups)

< Sections (Core, Specialization, Supplementary)

< Program (Master of Arts)

Program elements



Core Section (36 ECTS)

- **Select three out of five core lectures (18 ECTS)**
 - Comparative Political Institutions
 - Comparative Political Economy
 - Democratic Theory and Practice
 - International Relations (seminars/some in German)
 - European Politics
- **Take three methods courses (18 ECTS)**
 - Research Design (offered in winter and summer)
 - Quantitative Methods (only winter)
 - Qualitative Methods (only summer)

Specialization Section (30 ECTS)

- Select **two advanced seminars (Special Topics, 12 ECTS)**
 - One in *Political Institutions and Representation*
 - One in *Comparative Political Economy and International Relations*
- Select **two research projects (Applied Theories and Methods, 12 ECTS)**
 - One in *Political Institutions and Representation*
 - One in *Comparative Political Economy and International Relations*
- Take the **research seminar** to present your MA thesis draft (6 ECTS)

Supplementary section (24 ECTS)

- Interdisciplinary training component of all Master programs of the WiSo Faculty
- Either: Choose one group for 24 ECTS
 - Economics for Social Science II [numerous elective options]
 - Languages and Cultures of the Islamic World I [in German]
 - Studies Abroad II [for credit transfer]
- Or: Choose two groups for 12 ECTS
 - Economics for Social Science I [numerous elective options]
 - Economic Psychology
 - Economic Geography
 - Sociology
 - History [in German]
 - Languages and Cultures of the Islamic World II [in German]
 - [Internship](#)
 - Studies Abroad I [for credit transfer]

Thesis writing and advising (30 ECTS)

- Centralized procedure for allocation of advisors at beginning of your third term
- One of the professors acts as advisor and first examiner
- At least 60 ECTS required to start your thesis (after three semesters)
- Typically around 60 pages in length
- Topic and title are agreed between you and your advisor
- Present a draft in the research seminar
- Must be submitted within six months after registration
- Consult chair's guidelines, e.g. [Master thesis guidelines of Cologne Center for Comparative Politics](#)

Selecting courses and modules

- High flexibility, but you can complete each module only once
- Sequence
 - Recommended to take core courses before specialization courses but no fixed order
 - All three methods courses at introductory level
 - In advanced courses additional methods are applied
 - Consult the module catalogue for a recommended study plan and module cycles (winter vs summer term)
- Think carefully before choosing a module. Changing modules is only possible under certain conditions

Courses in the 2023-24 winter term

Section/module	Course	Instructor
Core	Comparative Political Institutions	Düzgün Arslantas
Core	Democratic Theory and Practice	Chit Basu
Core	Applied Geopolitics, Political Change Management, and International Law [IR, seminar]	Klemens Fischer
Core	Comparing European Democracies	Jens Wäckerle
Core: Methods	Research Design and Research Logic	Elifcan Celebi
Core: Methods	Introduction to Quantitative Methods	Jens Wäckerle, Jasmin Rath
Specialization: Special Topics I	Women in European Politics	Jens Wäckerle
Specialization: Special Topics I	Democracy in the Twenty First Century	Chit Basu
Specialization: Special Topics I	Institutional Reform of the European Union	Helena Heberer
Specialization: Special Topics I	Comparative Perspectives on Elite Rhetoric and Democratic Competition	Hauke Licht
Specialization: Special Topics II	Persönlichkeit, Führungsstil und Krisenmanagement: Politikpsychologische Ansätze [in German]	Katharina Berninger
Specialization: Special Topics II	Climate Politics	Michael Bechtel
Specialization: Special Topics II	Who Rules the Economy? The Political Economy of Labor and Business	Christine Trampusch
Specialization: Applied T&M I	Political Consequences of Electoral Systems	André Kaiser
Specialization: Applied T&M II	Bemühungen um die Nichtverbreitung von Massenvernichtungswaffen [in German]	Holger Mey
Specialization: Applied T&M II	Research Designs and Case Studies in Comparative Political Economy	Christine Trampusch

Registering for courses and exams

You must register for courses!

You must register separately for examinations!

- Register via the [KLIPS campus management system](#)
 - Get in touch with instructors / their offices in case of questions or problems
 - Contact the [WiSo Student Service Point](#) in case of technical issues
 - Deadline for winter term 2023-24: September 20, 2023 (today!)
- Exam registration is administrated by the examinations office and subject to strict rules (no flexibility!)
 - Deadline differs from course to course, please consult instructor or their offices
- Consult Institute website for instructions (on [courses](#) and [examinations](#))

Module catalogue

- Program structure
- Sample study plan
- Detailed module information
 - ECTS
 - Language
 - Cycle
 - Content
 - Teaching format
 - Examination format

[Download here](#)

CM Comparative Political Institutions					
Module Code	Workload	ECTS Credits	Module Language	Module Availability	Duration
1335MBCPI1	180h	6	English	every 2nd term - winter term	1 Term
1	Courses Comparative Political Institutions		Contact Hours 30h	Self-Studies 150h	Course Language English
2	Module Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalism and neoinstitutionalism • Veto player and veto point theory • Theory of structure-induced equilibria • Problem areas: aggregation of individual preferences, coordination of individual decisions, collective action, delegation relationships and risk of "agency loss" • Time consistency and commitments • Endogeneity of institutions and institutional reform • Empirical findings of conventional international comparative studies 				
3	Learning Objectives Students... ... understand advanced, specialised theories / methods. ... assess and discuss findings and research results of specialised theories / methods. ... justify and defend (independently developed) positions or problem solutions. ... evaluate their own action processes in self- and external reflection and identify development potentials.				
4	Teaching and Learning Methods lecture				
5	Module Entry Requirements none				
6	Mode of End-Of-Module Examination Written test: WT (60)				
7	Prerequisites for Awarding of Credit Points Passing the module examination				
8	Other Programmes that Use the Module Master of Arts Politikwissenschaft: Core Section Political Science Master of Science Information Systems: Supplementary Section Information Systems Master of Science Business Administration - Finance: Supplementary Section Finance Master of Science International Management:				

Studies abroad

- Option for a semester abroad
- Many partner universities (Sciences Po Paris, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, University of Copenhagen, and many more)
- Two options for credit transfer:
 - One-to-one credit transfer
 - Supplementary Section (12 or 24 ECTS, more flexible)
- Detailed information on [Institute website](#)
- [Center for International Relations](#)

Newsletter

- Invitations to guest talks and career development workshops
- Selected job opportunities, scholarships, exchange programs, and more
- 1–2 short emails per month

[Subscribe here](#)

Dear students,
Please find below the latest Political Science Master's Newsletter.

Political Science and Political Economy Lecture Series in 2023/2024

please save the dates and spread the news about talks in the Political Science and Political Economy Lecture Series in the upcoming winter term. The Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP) and the Excellence Cluster ECONtribute jointly host a lecture series on Political Science and Political Economy in 2023/2024, showcasing research on political economy, institutions and behavior by internationally leading researchers from top departments in Germany and abroad.

- **17 October 2023, 14 to 15.30:** Sarah Bush (University of Pennsylvania)
- 07 November 2023, 14 to 15.30: Carolina Plescia (University of Vienna)
- 14 November 2023, 14 to 15.30: Maria Thürk (University of Basel)
- 05 December 2023, 14 to 15.30: Dirk Leuffen (University of Konstanz)
- 30 January 2024, 14 to 15.30: Mirya Holman (University of Houston)

The lectures will take place in lecture hall H162 at building 213. For continuously updated information see: cccp.uni-koeln.de/de/news/lecture-series.

Call for Application: Research Assistants + Project Assistants at the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics

PD Dr. habil. Elena Semenova at the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP) is looking for Research Assistants (10 hours per week each) to support the international project "Institutional rules and their effects on cabinet and ministerial durability in advanced democracies" which is funded by the German Research Foundation. Tasks

Things to remember

- You are studying under the **examination regulations of 2021** (“PO 2021”)
- **Register in time** for courses and examinations
- You can **complete each module only once**, even if there are several courses to choose from.
As a possible exception, there might be several courses required to complete modules in certain groups of the supplementary section.
- Think carefully before choosing. **Changing groups and modules is subject to certain conditions.**

Cohort speakers

- We highly value your input and strive to address your study needs
- Cohort speakers are **important bridges between your peers and the Academic and Program Directors**
- Regular exchange on program-related matters
- Random selection of three students to assist in online election
- **Please consider becoming a cohort speaker.** It offers you a chance to contribute to our vibrant academic community.

Points of contact

- Administrative matters: [Student Service Point](#)
- Academic matters about the MA Political Science & general advice
 - Program Director
Dr Stephan Vogel: stephan.vogel@wiso.uni-koeln.de
 - Offices
CCCP: cccp-sekretariat@wiso.uni-koeln.de
Prof Jäger: sekretariat-jaeger@wiso.uni-koeln.de
- Studies abroad: [Center for International Relations](#)
- Career advice/workshops, CV checks: [Career Service](#)
- Financing, housing, social matters: [Werk Student Services](#)

Thank you!

We wish you all a great start into your MA!
Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Prof Dr Michael Bechtel
Academic Director

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Dr Stephan Vogel
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