Science and quantitative measures have increasingly defined and shaped politics. Today, empirical evidence almost always accompanies political decision-making. At the same time, Western democracies are experiencing an increasing radicalisation of politics coupled with scepticism towards "experts" and "expert knowledge". The conference therefore addresses the ambivalent relationship between science and politics in general and the role of numbers in the political process in particular. 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, because of their close interrelation with economic, social and cultural policies more generally.

This will be the second in a series of two interconnected conferences organised under the auspices of the interdisciplinary research project “Science, Numbers and Politics”. Its main purpose is to assess the results of the ongoing sub-projects, and to generate practical recommendations forming the basis of a user-friendly and actionable policy paper.

Further information on the research project:
**Panel II – Science and Politics Today**

**Moderators**
Kathrine von Graevenitz, Georg von Graevenitz

**Presenters**
Jean-Guy Prévost, Université du Québec à Montréal – Politics and Policies of Statistics Independence
Julia Schubert, Forum Internationale Wissenschaft – Quantifying the Challenge: Numerical Expertise in U.S. Geoengineering Politics
Wolfgang Drechsler, Tallinn University of Technology – Kings and Indicators: Options for Governing without Numbers
Amanda Machin, Alexander Ruser, Nico Stehr, Zeppelin University – When do we stop counting? Science, Scepticism and Emblematic Numbers in Climate Change Politics

**Panel III – Case Study: Education Policies**

**Moderators**
Markus J. Prutsch, Lars Lehmann

**Presenters**
Radhika Gorur, Deakin University; Bryan Maddox, University of East Anglia; Estrid Sorensen, Ruhr-University Bochum – Standardization and Re-Contextualization in PISA for Development: Global Requirements Meet Local Conditions
Yuval Vurgan, Knesset Research and Information Center – “Let’s Talk Numbers”: Parliamentary Evidence-Informed Policy Advice in Educational Affairs in Light of Political Demand for Quantification – Comparative Analysis

**Key Note: Achim Wambach, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)**

**Panel I – Historical Genesis**

**Moderators**
Kelly L. Grotke, Stephen Hastings-King

**Presenters**
Anat Leibler, Bar-Ilan University – The emergence of a global economic order – From scientific internationalism to infrastructural globalization
Kaat Louckx, Ghent University – “Lies, Damned Lies and ...Statistics”: Counting “Real Inhabitants” in the Census (Belgium, 1846-1947)
Ida Stamhuis, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam – “What Use is it in the Long Run to Resist Something that is Bound to Happen Anyway?” Statistics Setting in 19th C. Politics

**Coffee Break**

**Conference Dinner**

**Organisation**
Markus J. Prutsch (European Parliament/Heidelberg University)

**Karin Amos, Anne Rohstock**, Eberhard Karls University Tübingen – Smart Me Up! Scientization, Digital Policies and the Optimization of the Self in Late Modern Societies

**Jörg J. Dötsch**, Andrássy University Budapest – Higher Purpose or Economic Reason? A Comparative Study Concerning the Role of Numbers as Guide Values of Recent Education Policy with Focus on Tertiary Education

**Lunch Break**

**Plenary Debate**

**Introductory Presentations – What are Policy Papers?**

**Workshops (Part 1)**
Workshop I – Production of Numbers
Workshop II – Transfer/Translation of Numbers
Workshop III – Use of Numbers in Politics

**Buffet Dinner**

**Workshops (Part 2)**
Workshop I – Production of Numbers
Workshop II – Transfer/Translation of Numbers
Workshop III – Use of Numbers in Politics

**Coffee Break**

**Concluding Plenary Debate and Project Outlook**

**End of Conference**