

“Working Numbers”: Science and Contemporary Politics

Venue: Akademie der Wissenschaften
Karlstraße 4
69117 Heidelberg
Date: 8 - 10 June 2017
Beginning: 8 June 2017, 13.30

“Working Numbers”: Science and Contemporary Politics

HEIDELBERGER AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

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Academy Conference, Heidelberg
8 - 10 June 2017

REGISTRATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

Attendance is free of charge, but prior registration is mandatory, as the number of participants is limited. Please register via email:
numbers-and-politics@adw.uni-heidelberg.de

LOCATION

The conference takes place at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Karlstraße 4, 69117 Heidelberg, Old town / „Altstadt“), please find the location here:
[Google Maps](#)

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:
<http://www.haw.uni-heidelberg.de/forschung/win-kolleg/win-politics/welcome.en.html>



HEIDELBERGER AKADEMIE
DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

Akademie der Wissenschaften
des Landes Baden-Württemberg

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Organisation

Markus J. Prutsch
(European Parliament /
Heidelberg University)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 8 JUNE 2017

- 13.30 **Reception and Registration**
- 14.00 **Opening**
Welcome Address
Thomas W. Holstein (Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities)
Introduction
Markus J. Prutsch (European Parliament/Heidelberg University)
- 14.45 **Key Note: Achim Wambach, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)**
- 16.00 Coffee Break
- 16.30 **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 globalism
Kaat Louckx, Ghent University – “Lies, Damned Lies and State-istics”: 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 Settling in 19th C. Politics
Axel Utz, Independent Scholar – Science, Numbers, and Colonialism in the African Great Lakes, 1820-1910
- 19.00 Conference Dinner

FRIDAY, 9 JUNE 2017

- 09.00 **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
- 11.00 Coffee Break
- 11.30 **Panel III – Case Study: Education Policies**
Moderators
Markus J. Prutsch, Lars Lehmann
Presenters
Radhika Gorur, Deakin University; **Bryan Maddox**, University of East Anglia; **Estrid Sørensen**, 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

- 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, Andrassy 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
- 13.30 Lunch Break
- 15.00 **Plenary Debate**
- 16.00 **Introductory Presentations – What are Policy Papers?**
- 16.30 **Workshops (Part 1)**
Workshop I – Production of Numbers
Workshop II – Transfer/Translation of Numbers
Workshop III – Use of Numbers in Politics
- 19.00 Buffet Dinner

SATURDAY, 10 JUNE 2017

- 09.00 **Workshops (Part 2)**
Workshop I – Production of Numbers
Workshop II – Transfer/Translation of Numbers
Workshop III – Use of Numbers in Politics
- 11.30 Coffee Break
- 12.00 **Concluding Plenary Debate and Project Outlook**
- 13.00 End of Conference