



NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, December 2020

Dear members, partners, and friends of the Research Training Group DYNAMICS,

2020 may be coming to an end, but the challenge we faced this year continues — the COVID-19 pandemic. After March 2020, almost all scheduled in-person events were canceled and research stays of visiting researchers had to be postponed. Virtual was the only game in town to bring our community together.

Nevertheless, we were able to offer a lot of inspiring virtual events and welcomed an active new cohort of doctoral students in Berlin. One of our doctoral students also spent a few months abroad.

In this newsletter, we will inform you about past and upcoming events of the Research Training Group at Humboldt-Universität Berlin and Hertie School and will also introduce our new cohort. This is our second edition. We hope you enjoy it.

Stay healthy,
your DYNAMICS –Team

DFG-Research Training
Group

DYNAMICS

“The Dynamics of
Demography, Democratic
Processes and Public
Policy“

Organisation:

DFG Research Training Group
DYNAMICS
Department of Social Sciences
dynamics.office@hu-berlin.de

Review

On September 1st, we held a welcome event for the 5 new doctoral researchers who started their journey at DYNAMICS and now make up our second cohort.

They were welcomed by the spokesperson from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Prof. Heike Klüver, and the Co-spokesperson from the Hertie School, Prof. Michaela Kreyenfeld, and the Managing Director, Charlotte Reinisch. While we normally would have held this event in our offices at Luisenstraße, we managed to create a welcoming atmosphere online.

Afterwards, Prof. Vera Troeger from Hamburg University held a virtual lecture on „Productivity Takes Leave? Examining Impact of Maternity Leave Policies on Academic Careers“. Later on, the first cohort of DYNAMICS doctoral students presented their research projects in interdisciplinary groups to their colleagues and Principal Investigators. It was a lively exchange and our PhD students enjoyed the feedback they received on their projects.

After a tour through the North Campus where our office is located, there was even cake involved to celebrate the 1st birthday of our Research Training Group and a socially distanced Meet & Greet with our second year doctoral students.



Appointments

Korinna Lindemann was appointed as Gender Equality and Equal Opportunity Officer 2021-2023.

Fabio Ellger was nominated as the student representative in the Selection Panel 2021.

Sarah Schmauk was elected as Doctoral Student Representative and Nicolai Berk as her deputy.

Our sincere thanks to Daniele Florean, Dominic Gohla, Anthea Alberto and António Valentim for their commitment and support as former doctoral student representatives, Gender Equality and Equal Opportunity Officer and student representative in the Selection Panel.

News

Clara Waltz is our new student assistant. Coming from Cologne, she moved to Berlin in 2019 first working in Fundraising and starting her studies in September of the same year. She is currently in her third semester of Social Sciences Mono-Bachelor at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Clara assists the Managing Director with the organization of events and administrative tasks and supports the doctoral students in their research.

Call for Applications

The call for applications for 5 doctoral researcher positions is now online:

<https://www.sowi.hu-berlin.de/en/dynamics/application>

Starting in September 1, these three-year positions are open to promising young social scientists interested in studying demographic change, democratic processes, and public policy.

Say hi to our new cohort!



Tabea obtained a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Leipzig and a master's degree in Sociology - "European Societies" from Freie Universität Berlin. In her master's thesis, Tabea focused on the impact of flexible working time arrangements on the distribution of unpaid work in couples.

Her research interest includes labor market related gender inequalities in the context of different welfare states. More specifically, she uses quantitative methods to investigate the linkage of public policies and family dynamics, such as parental leave systems and their effect on the division of labor.

Furthermore, she worked as a student assistant at the Socio-Economic Panel. After graduating, Tabea was employed for almost a year at the University Potsdam, investigating the interplay between the division of labor in couples and relationship quality.

Tabea Naujoks



Korinna Lindemann

Korinna completed her studies at the University of Zurich focusing on Democracy, Development and International Relations as well as Political Data Journalism in her MA. She also spent a semester at the University of Warsaw.

Her research interests include migration, political behaviour and institutions. More specifically, she is interested in the effects of institutional contexts regarding the vote choice of citizens with a migration background and of ethnic minorities in a cross-national comparison using quantitative methods.

Meet our new members!

Jóhanna Bjanadóttir



Jóhanna attained her bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Sciences at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Additionally, she spent a year at Sciences Po, the Mediterranean campus in Menton. During her studies, Jóhanna worked at the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) in the department of democracy and democratization.

Jóhanna's research interests involve political parties, democratic responsiveness and political participation. Her key focus is the analysis of political parties' responsiveness to political protests and social movements in Europe, and which factors affect this responsiveness.

Miriam obtained a bachelor's degree in philosophy and social sciences at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where she also obtained her master's degree in social sciences. Her main interest lies in the field of social inequality, family research, and quantitative methods.

Over the course of her studies, she worked as a student assistant in the organization team of the XXIV. Congress of the German Society for Philosophy in 2017 and at the bureau of the Vice President for Research at Humboldt-Universität. Furthermore, she worked as a student assistant for the research projects "Family Formation Policies" and "In-Work Poverty in Europe" which were seed-funded by the Oxford-Berlin partnership. Additionally, she taught a two-semester course "Classism and Social Inequality" as a student tutor.

Miriam Sigleitmaier



Nicolai Berk



He obtained his BA from the University of Vienna, before pursuing his MSc at the University of Amsterdam, where he focused on electoral competition and automated text analysis.

He is interested in questions of political competition, public opinion and political rhetoric in Western Democracies. More concretely, he combines text analysis with econometric methods to study how political parties shape the political discourse. His special interest lies in the effects of radical right rhetoric.

International Experiences

By Anthea Alberto, 2nd year DYNAMICS-PhD student

My experience at the University of Essex

During my research stay at the University of Essex, I had a great time and was able to make progress on my research, even though my stay was cut short. I was meant to stay from January till May but returned to Berlin mid-March for reasons I probably do not have to explain.

The Department of Government, which graciously hosted me, was very welcoming and boasts a lively scientific community. I was able to participate in two research colloquia, where I presented my own work, got valuable feedback, and learnt more about other dissertation projects. The PhD-community is very tight-knit, and while they were open and welcoming, the shortness of my stay unfortunately meant that I was not able to really integrate myself.

The Uni also has a much-loved non-human inhabitant, a cat called Pebbles. It can often be found loitering around the main building and is mostly receptive to affection from stressed-out students. The cat serves as the university's mascot and I even brought home a mug with the campus cat's picture on it.

A range of engaging, international speakers were invited to the Department's lecture series, which was always very stimulating. Both the PhDs and senior researchers hold regular pub nights at the Uni's own Top Bar. I participated in the pub quiz multiple times, which is a British institution and was always a lot of fun. I tend to get a bit too competitive though, so it's a good thing the quiz is only held on a bi-weekly basis.



The campus itself, while not exactly pretty, has a lovely park and offers a lot of conveniences. What I really loved was the weekly market on Thursdays. Not only were there some wonderful food stalls, but also a second-hand book seller (most of my reading material came from there) and a small selection of hand-crafted jewelry. In addition to that, the large bread-stall was the place in all of Colchester where one could get decent bread. I don't know whether I'd have survived on nothing but toast for my stay there, which is inexplicably the most popular bread-like item to be found.

I lived off-campus while staying in Colchester, since I had heard various horror stories of the Uni's own student accommodations. While I never verified any of these stories, I am glad that I stayed somewhere else regardless. Not only was I closer to the town center, but having roommates meant I also got to know people unaffiliated with the university and I am still in contact with two of them.

International Experiences

Overall, I found the scientific community of the Department of Government to be very welcoming and engaging. I had some fruitful discussions and I feel that my research greatly benefitted from my stay there.

The University of Essex sits in the town of Colchester. To get a feel of the local culture, I would tentatively recommend watching an episode of *The Only Way is Essex*, a wildly popular reality TV show. Tentatively, because it is mostly overdramatic people with bad tans and thick accents yelling at each other. It is enlightening when trying to understand where all the Essex-stereotypes come from, though. Colchester itself is small, but has some nice pubs, cafés, shops and the castle is definitely worth a visit.



Buses are notoriously unreliable (Will the 61 arrive? Nobody knows!), so getting around on foot or by bike might be preferable, at least when the weather is nice.

If one tires of everything Colchester has to offer, London with its many attractions is only an hour away by train, and the seaside is even closer. Frinton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze not only have lovely names but also offer typical British seaside entertainment and of course, long stretches of beach.

Despite how stressful my last week in Colchester was (cleaning my room, trying to fit my belongings into my suitcase, frantically checking whether my flight had been cancelled), I think of my time there very fondly and would heartily recommend a stay there.

Past Events

Lecture Series:

September 21, 2020

“Population Growth, Migration Trends, and Economic Inequality: Interconnected societal Problems and Intervention Challenges” with **Prof. Nan Dirk de Graaf**, University of Oxford

November 23, 2020

“The Politics of Demography: Adapting Pension Policies to Population Change” with **Prof. Karen M. Anderson**, University College Dublin

Workshops for DYNAMICS doctoral students:

Feb. 2020

“Population Intervention Forecast” with **Prof. Gunnar Andersson**, Stockholm University

Sept. 2020

„Introduction to the Socio-Economic Panel“ with **Prof. Martin Kroh**, Bielefeld University

Oct. 2020

“Though Times? How to Keep Going!” with **Dr. Sabine Blackmore**, Blackmore Coaching

Oct. 2020

„How to present your Research effectively and attractively“ with **Dr. Julia Offe**, Science Slam

Nov. 2020

„Catalysing Collaborations: Advancing Conversations across disciplinary boundaries“ with **Dr. Stefan Götze**, Eureka Discoveries

Workshop for Principal Investigators:

Dec. 2020

„Anti Bias“-Training with **Dr. Sabine Blackmore**, Blackmore Coaching

Women @ DYNAMICS:

Oct. 2020

Career Talk with **Prof. Vera Troeger**, Hamburg University

Dec. 2020

Career Talk with **Prof. Theresa Kuhn**, University of Amsterdam

Board Meetings:

Feb. and Nov. 2020

Academic Board Meetings

May 2020

Advisory Board Meeting with **Prof. Silja Häusermann**, University of Zurich und **Prof. Petra Schleiter**, University of Oxford

Preview

Lecture Series:

January 18, 2021

„Economic Downturns, Blame Attribution, and Issue Salience: Evidence from Turkey“ with **Prof. Selim Erdem Aytaç**, Koç University

March 22, 2021

“What can Social Policy do to Increase Intergenerational Social Mobility”, **Dr. Bastian Betthäuser**, Nuffield College

Workshops for doctoral students:

March 15-16, 2021

Good Scientific Practice, **Dr. Julia Verse**, Scientific Integrity

April 2021

Career Delevopment for Female Doctoral Students, **Dr. Anne Löchte**

Board Meetings:

March 2021

Academic Board Meeting

May 2021 (tba)

Advisory Board Meeting

Happy Holidays!

Here's hoping for a happy, healthy and safe 2021! We are looking forward to working with you next year