

Linking Theory and Empirical Research

Berlin, July 16 – 26, 2018

We are delighted to announce the **8th Berlin Summer School in Social Sciences**. The summer school aims at supporting young researchers by strengthening their ability in linking theory and empirical research. The two-week program creates an excellent basis for the development of their current research designs.

In the first week, we address the key methodological challenges of concept-building, causation/explanation, and micro-macro linkage that occur in almost all research efforts. We strive for a clarification of the epistemological foundations underlying methodological paradigms. In the second week, these methodological considerations are applied to central empirical fields of research in political science, sociology, and other related disciplines. In this second part of the program, participants are assigned to four thematic groups according to their own research topics. The thematic areas covered are: *“External Governance, Interregionalism, and Domestic Change”*, *“Citizenship, Migration, and Identities”*, *“Social Struggle and Globalization”*, and *“Democracy at the Crossroads”*.

The program is characterized by a varied format comprising **lectures, workshops, seminars, and one-to-one consultations**. During the summer school, participants will also have the opportunity to present and discuss their own work extensively. Participants will be provided with hands-on advice for their research designs.

The school brings together a faculty of **renowned international and Berlin-based scholars**. Among the confirmed international lecturers are Donatella della Porta (Scuola Normale Superiore), Steve Fleetwood (University of the West of England, Bristol), Macartan Humphreys (Columbia University/WZB Berlin), Nikita Dhawan (University of Innsbruck), Staffan Lindberg (University of Gothenburg), and Hendrik Wagenaar (University of Sheffield).

The Berlin Summer School was co-funded by the **Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS)** at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the **WZB Berlin Social Science Center**. Details on the location and tuition fees can be found on our webpage www.berlinsummerschool.de.

The international summer school is open to up to 60 PhD candidates, advanced master students, and young postdocs. The call for applications is currently open. Applications can be submitted online via the application form on the summer school webpage until **March 31, 2018**.

The decisions of the selection committee will be announced to the applicants in April. If you have any further questions, please contact the organizing team at summerschool.bgss@hu-berlin.de