

# New interdisciplinary courses



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## Autumn semester 2022

### Where and when?

#### Climate Sciences in Conversation with Climate Law:

Date: Start date: 21/09/2022

Time: Wednesday, 16:15-18:00 (weekly or bi-weekly, see PDF)

ECTS: 5

Registrations via KSL

Registration Period: - 31/08/2022

#### Human–environment relations in the age of sustainability debates: the example of renewable and non-renewable resources extraction:

Date: Start date: 19/09/2022

Time: Monday, 10:15-14:00 (Every other week)

ECTS: 5

Registrations via KSL

Registration Period: 04/06/2022 – 24/07/2022

#### Climate Sciences in Conversation with Climate Law (KSL Number 475995)

**Lecturers:** Martin Grosjean, OCCR; Charlotte Elisabeth Blattner, Institute of Public Law; Christoph Raible, Physics Institute

Climate change today is acknowledged as a „global emergency“ by the IPCC and the UN. Yet, existing regulatory means seem disproportionate, to respond to this unprecedented societal challenge. A significant factor contributing to this discrepancy between „is“ and „ought“ is the lack of conversation - and knowledge about how to converse - between the relevant disciplines. In this seminar, we offer master students in law and climate sciences a coordinated framework, through which they can explore this rapprochement.

In groups of 2-3, students will disentangle past and ongoing climate litigation cases, each from their own discipline. Climate science students will probe scientific evidence e.g. about causation, attribution, and effects on society and natural systems. Law students, on the other hand, will deconstruct substantive and procedural legal issues about standing, causation, future threats, (il)legality, emergencies, proportionality, etc. Through this interdisciplinary conversation, we contribute to the education of a growing generation of climate-literate graduates.

During the seminar, experts in climate science and climate law and policy will talk about some of the most recent and challenging issues they are working on. Among those is, for example, Cordelia Bähr, who spearheads the KlimaSeniorinnen case at the ECtHR.

#### Human–environment relations in the age of sustainability debates: the example of renewable and non-renewable resources extraction (KSL Number 477912)

**Lecturer:** Gertrude Saxinger, Institute of Social Anthropology

Natural resource extraction is a fundamental basis for human existence in socio-economic and cultural terms. However, benefits and negative impacts are unequally distributed within society at different scales, which can lead to conflicts.

Furthermore, 'green transition' will require a substantial increase in mining e.g. rare earth minerals, nickel, cobalt, etc., which are extracted often under precarious conditions. Also, non-renewable resource extraction in the form of wind parks or hydro-plants, etc. can negatively impact local and Indigenous livelihoods. This fact provokes discussions about global solidarity in carrying the social and ecological costs of transition in the name of sustainability. The course provides an introduction to global entanglements and local consequences of resources extraction, social and environmental justice, the conduct of corporations and states as well as conflicts around „mining territories“. It introduces theories and examples from the field of critical human-environment research in the context of sustainability.

Through joint reading, student presentations, and teacher inputs, examples from different parts of the world and historical periods will be highlighted. The sessions will explore a variety of social, cultural and economic conceptions of human-environment relations. Research from different disciplines – especially social anthropology, human geography, and political science – will be reflected.

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### Where and when?

#### Public Sector Digitalization:

Date: Start date: 20/09/2022

Time: Tuesday, 10:15 to 12:00 (Every week)

ECTS: 6

Registrations via KSL

Registration Period: 01/09/2022 – 25/09/2022

#### Spatial methods for economists using Python:

Date: Start date: 05/09/2022, 09:30 to 15:00

Time: Thursday, 17:00 to 18:00 (Online, Every other week)

ECTS: 3

Registrations via KSL

Registration Period: 20/06/2022 – 29/08/2022

### Public Sector Digitalization (KSL Number 472400)

**Lecturer:** Srinivas Yerramsetti, Center of Competence for Public Management

Digital Governance is an interdisciplinary seminar that will seek to engage with the deployment of Information and Communication Technologies within the government's functions and processes. It aims to enhance the public managers' competencies to lead public sector digital transformation effectively. While the course will prioritize three distinct approaches (legal, political, and managerial) to the study of digital governance as an applied field of knowledge and practice, it will borrow theoretical insights drawn from other disciplines and case studies. In line with the aim of the Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-Based Digital Government, this course will prepare the students to facilitate 'value-based digital transformation by addressing and ultimately strengthening digital participation and digital inclusion in our societies.'

Through this course, students will familiarize themselves with the recent advances in the digital transformation of the public sector, evaluate the socio-technological implications of digital transformation, and engage with the ethical and legal ramifications of organizational change and digital transformation. In addition, they will undertake group-based activities to explore the opportunities to improve government operations and ways to overcome structural and institutional obstacles to change. Finally, the course will orient students to engage with the service user experience deeply; anticipate and mitigate the privacy, security, and ethical risks with the potential for disparate impact on vulnerable social groups; and appreciate the need for precaution.

### Spatial methods for economists using Python (KSL Number 472466)

**Lecturer:** Olivier Schöni, Department of Economics

In the last decade, the use of spatial data in empirical analyses has spread to a variety of economic fields, including urban and real estate economics, development and environmental economics, labor and public economics, economic history, and trade. The aim of the course is to provide students and researchers with an effective and systematic workflow allowing them to extract and structure information provided by spatial data. To this end, the course will primarily focus on the automation of tasks involving spatial data using Python and ArcGIS. Among others, these tasks include importing different formats of spatial data, projecting spatial data to a common reference system, defining a spatial structure, selecting areas according to specific rules, merging data according to their spatial relationship, computing spatial statistics, and exporting the results. Additionally, the course will show how to integrate these tasks into the workflow of standard statistical software, such as R and Stata. The programming part of the lecture is complemented with a discussion of papers published in leading economic journals that exploit spatial data in their econometric analyses.