

# New interdisciplinary courses



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**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

## Spring semester 2019

### Where and when?

#### Comparative Public Administration and Public Policy in Europe and Beyond:

Date: Thu Time: 12.15-14.00h (weekly)  
ECTS: 6 Room: UniS, A201  
Registrations are transmitted from CTS to [ILIAS](#)  
(No admission in ILIAS possible.)  
Deadline: 1 - 27 Feb 2019

#### Contemporary Sociology of Religion:

Date: Thu Time: 16:15–18:00 (weekly)  
ECTS: 4 Room: Unitobler, F-111  
Registrations are transmitted from CTS to [ILIAS](#)  
(No admission in ILIAS possible.)  
Deadline: 3 Dec 2018 – 21 February 2019

#### Numerical analysis of high dimensional data: from simple statistics to multifactorial data integration:

Date: Mon (except Tue 5 March and 23 April)  
Time: 16:15-18:00  
ECTS: 3 Room: Hörsaal, Institute for Infectious Diseases (IFIK), Bern  
Registration via: are transmitted from CTS to [ILIAS](#) (No admission in ILIAS possible.)  
Deadline: 20 Dec 2018 – 15 February 2019

#### Comparative Public Administration and Public Policy in Europe and Beyond (451998)

Lecturers: Prof. Dr. Adrian Ritz, KPM Center for Public Management, University of Bern

Nation states around the globe differ in their organization of economic welfare, societal culture, political and legal systems. At the same time, nation states are competitor for human capital, firms and good tax payers. Their means to attract these success factors are policies such as economic, labor, and tax regulation, welfare, education, and healthcare system. Politico-administrative systems are one decisive factor of policy impact and societal well-being. Public agencies, task structures and networks between society, economy, and the public sector often developed over a long period of time and established administrative rules and cultures are important pillars of stable nation states. Therefore, it is important to analyze executive systems from a comparative perspective in order to get insights in how context shapes politico-administrative systems. In this seminar students learn about institutions for public service provision in Europe and selected countries beyond, their relationship to societal and cultural context, and their effects on a variety of outcomes.

#### Contemporary Sociology of Religion (452112)

Lecturer: Dr. Sarah Kaboğan, Institute of Sociology, University of Münster

Leaving church, 'sects', spirituality, church and sexuality, fundamentalism and terrorism – a glance at every newspaper is enough to recognize the importance of religion in our modern societies. The sociology of religion tries to understand such phenomena by explaining and understanding how people put their beliefs into social action on the one hand and how society influences religion and religious life on the other hand. In the seminar, we are going to outline the processes of modernity that influence religion since the 1960s (secularization, individualization, globalization, and their counter-processes) and new religious forms by understanding theoretical and empirical contribution to the field.

#### Numerical analysis of high dimensional data: from simple statistics to multifactorial data integration (452461)

Lecturer: Dr. Alban Ramette, Institute for Infectious Diseases, University of Bern

Access to large quantities of data is becoming a reality in many disciplines. Yet, the bottleneck is often how to make sense of complex datasets by using appropriate statistical tools. The course will offer an overview of common statistical approaches that address this issue. The lecture series will start by presenting simple statistical approaches (descriptive statistics, linear model, correlation, t-test, ANOVA), and will build on those to progress towards more advanced statistical methods (dimensional reduction approaches, matrix representation and comparison, and conjoint analysis of multiple tables) that deal with high dimensional data often found in the medical and the biological sciences. Each lecture unit is split into theoretical and hands-on parts using the statistical language R, so that students can make the connection between concepts and implementation more easily. No prior knowledge of R or RStudio is required.

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### Where and when?

**The Quest for Self-Determination: from Catalonia to Switzerland**

Date: Tue (19.2 – 28.5.19)

Time: 15:15 – 18:00 (every 2<sup>nd</sup> week)

ECTS: 5                      Room: Unitobler, F-105

Registration via: KSL

Deadline: 7 – 20 January 2019

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### **The Quest for Self-Determination: from Catalonia to Switzerland (452377)**

Lecturers: Dr. Béla Filep, Institute of Geography,  
University of Bern

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This interdisciplinary seminar is concerned with the quest for self-determination at different levels and from various perspectives. We analyze topics such as political rights of minorities or stateless nations (e.g. in relation to the current crisis in Catalonia), social movements (e.g. the women's movement) or alternative lifestyles (e.g. travelers such as the Yenish or communes such as Longo Mai). We are interested in spatial and identity-related aspects, the local, regional, national and international embedding of issues, not least in various power constellations. The course is structured along sessions that students in small groups organize themselves with the support of the lecturer. In addition, the course includes a session with a negotiation simulation and a facultative one-day visit to the European Parliament.

All courses will be held in English, further information on KSL: [www.ksl.unibe.ch](http://www.ksl.unibe.ch)