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Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences employs around 240 academics: 35 professors and 205 research associates. It also has more than 3,000 students, making it one of the largest social-sciences faculties in Germany.

Five institutes make up our faculty: the Institute of Political Science (IfP), the Institute of Sociology (IfS), the Institute of Socio-Economics (IfSO), the Institute of Work, Skills and Training (IAQ), and the Institute of Development and Peace (INEF). The latter two are pure research institutes. With this structure, we cover the full range of the modern social sciences—political science, sociology and socio-economics—and their methodologies.

Our main function is to conduct empirical research underpinned by a solid theoretical framework.

Normative research methods ensure the relevance of our academic work and allow our scholars to reflect on their empirical results. With our fundamental research, we make a visible contribution to national and international academic discourse and commit ourselves to high-quality scholarship that tackles current issues in the social sciences. Finally, our applied research efforts allow us to take social responsibility by improving social, political and economic structures and processes in collaboration with our partners outside of academia.

Key research areas and partnerships

The disciplines of our faculty reflect the complexity of the social structures it studies. We have clear specialisms both within the institutes and across the faculty.

The Institute of Political Science conducts research in global governance and area studies, comparative political attitude and behavioural research, governance in Germany, the EU, East Asia and Africa, comparative democracy and democratisation studies, elections, political parties, media and parliaments in Germany, peace and conflict studies, political education and transfer.

The Institute of Sociology focuses on comparative society studies and transnationalisation, migration and participation, family and ways of life, social inequality and gender, labour markets, social mobility and social security, work, organisation, technology, advanced methods of empirical social research, societal and social theory.

The Institute of Socio-Economics specialises in measuring inequality, work, social policy and ecology, growth models, digital and technological transformation, political and social consequences of socio-economical problems, public finance and economic policy, socio-economics and socio-economic education.

The Institute of Work, Skills and Training is organised into the following research departments: Employment, Inclusion, Mobility (AIM), Working Time and Work Organisation (AZAO), Education, Development, Social Participation (BEST), Flexibility and Security (FLEX).

The Institute of Development and Peace (INEF) works on the following three research fields within the scope of its current programme, 'Ordering and Responsibility in the Shadow of Hierarchies': transnational governance and individual responsibility, developmental partnerships in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), resistance and political ordering.

Many cross-institute collaborative research projects are conducted in these fields, some of which involve other central research institutions of the University, such as the Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST), the Interdisciplinary Centre for Integration and Migration Research (InZentIM), the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/

Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21), the Rhein-Ruhr-Institut für Sozialforschung und Politikberatung e.V. (RISP) and the research profile 'Transformation of Contemporary Societies'.

Research highlights in 2019/2020

The following research highlights from the past two years give insight into our faculty's diverse projects and funding sources:

ERC Consolidator Grant 'The Ties that Bind: Experimental Analyses of Political Solidarities in Modern European Democracies' (POLITSOLID)

Professor Achim Goerres's (IfP) project POLITSOLID examines why some citizens of European nations are more inclined than others to bear the cost of state redistribution schemes. Using experimental methods, his study aims to model various political solidarities at the individual and macro level in order to improve behavioural predictions. The project is funded by the European Research Council with 2 million euros between 2020 and 2025. It was the first political-science project in Germany to be awarded a Consolidator Grant.

DFG project 'Role Change and Role Contestation in the People's Republic of China: Globalization of "Chinese" Concepts of Order?'

Professor Nele Noessel's (IfP) research project highlights the global implications of the institutional reforms and the restructuring of the Chinese developmental trajectory which have taken place since 2013. The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, DFG) has allocated 585,000 euros in funding to the project for 2014–2024.

BMBF collaborative project 'Radical Islam versus Radical Anti-Islam (RIRA). Social Polarisation and Perceived Threats as Drivers of Radicalisation and Co-Radicalisation among Young People and Post-Adolescents'

German society has become increasingly polarised over the past years as various social groups continue to undergo processes of mutual alienation and rejection. Prejudices against social groups correlate with the perception of the 'other'



Professors

Professor Dr Gerhard Bäcker	Professor Dr Frank Kleemann
Professor Dr Helen Baykara-Krumme	Professor Dr Axel Klein
Professor Dr Ulrike Behrendt	Professor Dr Dr Karl-Rudolf Korte
Professor Dr Christoph Bieber	Professor Dr Sabine Manzel
Professor Dr Andreas Blätte	Professor Dr Paul Marx
Professor Dr Gregor Bongaerts	Professor Dr Manfred Mai
Professor Dr Gerhard Bosch	Professor Dr Dirk Messner
Professor Dr Martin Brussig	Professor Dr Hannes Mosler
Professor Dr Florian Coulmas	Professor Dr Nele Noesselt
Professor Dr Tobias Debiel	Professor Dr Susanne Pickel
Professor Dr Nicolai Dose	Professor Dr Sigrig Quack
Professor Dr Marcel Erlinghagen	Professor Dr Miriam Rehm
Professor Dr Jörg Faust	Professor Dr Theresa Reinold
Professor Dr Achim Goerres	Professor Dr Rainer Schnell
Professor Dr Thomas Haipeter	Professor Dr Karen Shire
Professor Dr Christof Hartmann	Professor Dr Petra Stein
Professor Dr Thomas Heberer	Professor Dr Anja Steinbach
Professor Dr Gustav Horn	Professor Dr Sybille Stöbe-Blossey
Professor Dr Michael Kaeding	Professor Dr Till van Treeck
Professor Dr Jakob Kapeller	Professor Dr Achim Truger
Professor Dr Ute Klammer	Professor Dr Anja Weiß

as a threat. The (perceived) threat of radical Islam plays an important role in these processes. It has paved the way for a reciprocal spiral of potential radicalisation in German society, and youths and young adults are at particular risk. The proposed project takes an interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, interreligious, multimethodological and empirical approach to previously unexamined interrelations of social aspects inherent to such a spiral of radicalisation. The results will inform preventive measures for the educational sector. Headed by Professor Susanne Pickel of the Institute of Political Science, the collaborative project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research with 2,470,000 euros between 2020 and 2024.

EU collaborative project 'sEnECA – Strengthening and Energizing EU-Central Asia Relations' in the EU Horizon 2020 programme

Headed by Professor Michael Kaeding (IfP) and Dr Karin Böttger (Director of the Institute for European Politics, Berlin), the international consortium was made up of twelve organisations from the EU and Central Asia. It realised three concrete objectives over the project duration. Firstly, it has established a transdisciplinary network of academics working on European integration in Central Asia and on Central Asian topics in Europe. Secondly, the participating researchers advised and informed the revision of the EU Central Asia Strategy. Thirdly, the project partners contributed to the expansion of existing relations. The sEnECA project received 1.5 million euros of funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme from the beginning of 2018 to the end of 2019.

DFG project 'German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study (GERPS)' in partnership with the Federal Institute for Population Research

In collaboration with the Federal Institute for Population Research, Professor Marcel Erlinghagen (IfS) is conducting a large-scale empirical study into the impact of international migration on the further course of migrants' lives. His case studies involve people who have emigrated from Germany and returned. The project examines the consequences of international migration on the basis of traditional distinctions used in social structure analysis and inequality studies. It is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) with 2 million euros from 2018 till 2021.

DFG project 'Organizing Creativity under Regulatory Uncertainty: Alternative Approaches to Intellectual Property'

Regulatory uncertainty about intellectual property rights is ubiquitous in creative and innovative processes. Originally implemented to foster creativity by granting copyrights and patents to creatives and allowing them to make reliable estimates about future proceeds, IP rights have gradually become a source of uncertainty. This project examines practical

strategies for overcoming IP-related doubts during creative processes. It aims to develop an empirical and conceptual microfoundation of these opposing forces. Professor Sigrig Quack's (IfS) study is part of the DFG research unit 'Organized Creativity', coordinated by Professor Jörg Sydow (Freie Universität Berlin) and funded with 218,342 euros between 2016 and 2020.

DFG project: 'Family Models in Germany (FAMOD)'

Professor Anja Steinbach's (IfS) project examines the situations of mothers, fathers and children in various family models, focusing on the well-being of the individual family members. Her standardised, large-scale study surveys members of 1,500 families living in a variety of family structures. In collaboration with Professor Tobias Helms (University of Marburg), she focuses on issues of family sociology as well as legal questions. The DFG provided 960,000 euros in funding to the project between 2018 and 2021; an application for renewal has just been approved.

DFG Research Unit: Multi-Sectoral Regional Microsimulation Model

The multi-sectoral regional microsimulation model (MikroSim) seeks to answer questions such as: which regions are currently experiencing a shortage of care staff or are at risk of such a shortage? Does urbanisation impoverish rural areas? To what extent can the expansion of digital infrastructure counteract that development? Besides labour requirements in the care sector and the integration of migrants into the labour market, MikroSim can analyse issues such as the acute shortage of doctors or income growth in Germany. The Research Unit is represented by its spokesman, Professor Johannes Kopp (Trier). Professor Reiner Schnell (vice-spokesman) and Professor Petra Stein (both of the IfS) are members. The DFG has allocated two million euros in funding to the project for 2018–2021.

NRW-Rückkehrprogramm for postdoctoral researchers returning to North Rhine-Westphalia: 'Der Einfluss sozialer Probleme auf politische Integration in Deutschland und in vergleichender Perspektive' (The impact of



Dean: Professor Dr Petra Stein

social problems on political integration from a domestic and comparative perspective)

Professor Paul Marx (IfSO) is the first social scientist to join the University of Duisburg-Essen within the scope of the NRW-Rückkehrprogramm, an initiative encouraging postdoctoral researchers to return to North Rhine-Westphalia from abroad for their further research. He previously worked at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense, where he studied the political causes and consequences of changes in the labour market. His research project focuses on the political integration of people with socio-economic problems and the effect of poverty, unemployment and a precarious livelihood on



Selected Publications

Bosch, G., F. Hüttenhoff, C. Weinkopf (2019): *Kontrolle von Mindestlöhnen*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.

Stöbe-Blossey, S., K. Köhling, P. Hackstein, M. Ruth (2019): *Integration durch Bildung als Kooperationsaufgabe. Potenziale vorbeugender Sozialpolitik*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.

Erlinghagen, M. (2019): *Employment and its Institutional Contexts*. *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie: KZfSS*, 71 (1), 221–246.

Mayer, S. (2019): *Ideological congruency, social group linkage or the best-evaluated party of all? Why partisans identify with a political party*. *Quality and Quantity* 53 (1), 297–313.

Noesselt, N. (2020): *A presidential signature initiative: Xiong'an and governance modernization under Xi Jinping*. *Journal of Contemporary China*, doi: 10.1080/10670564.2020.1744378

Quack, S. (2019): *From the Hope of Transcendence to Dreams of Domestication? Review Symposium On Tim Bartley's 'Rules without Rights: Land, Labor and Private Authority in the Global Economy'*. *Socio-Economic Review* 18 (1), 295–308.

Steinbach, A., M. Silverstein (2019): *The Relationship Between Religion and Intergenerational Solidarity in Eastern and Western Germany*. *Journal of Family Issues* 41 (1), 109–130.

Vüllers, J., R. Krtsch (2020): *Raise your voices! Civilian protest in civil wars*, *Political Geography*, 80 (June) (online first). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2020.102183>

Witting, A., F. Brandenstein, K. Satoh (2020): *Introducing an egocentric method to explore information flow in a postflood governance network*. *Environmental Policy and Governance*: 1–13, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/eet.1885>

Zuazu, I. (2019): *The growth effect of democracy and technology: An industry disaggregated approach*. *European Journal of Political Economy* 56, 115–131.

political apathy and radicalisation. The Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research of North Rhine-Westphalia is funding the project with 1.2 million euros for a five-year period.

Research group: 'Migration und Sozialpolitik' (migration and social policy, MigSoz)

Overseen by Professor Ute Klammer and coordinated by Dr Thorsten Schlee (both of the IAQ), this early-career research group examines how municipalities and local authorities react to an influx of refugees and how refugees utilise (or fail to utilise) the structures available to them. The group comprises two post-doctoral Habilitation thesis projects and two doctoral dissertations each at the IfP and the IfS. They focus on a variety of sociopolitical topics (labour, education and healthcare) and examine specific population groups (displaced women, people from sub-Saharan Africa, refugees with a history of substance abuse). The funding network for interdisciplinary social-policy research of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has allocated 1,125,000 euros in funding to the project from 2017 to 2022.

DSF project: 'Parteienwettbewerb und kollektive dschihadistische Radikalisierung in Subsahara-Afrika' (party competition and collective jihadist radicalisation in sub-Saharan Africa)

The region-specific conditions that enable collective radicalisation and the resulting development of jihadist milieus have been studied to a great extent. They include the post-colonial emergence of a puritan reform Islam grounded in Salafism, the socio-economic and political marginalisation of Muslim populations, and pre-existing dynamics of secular polarisation. Meanwhile, researchers have paid considerably less attention to conditions that foster 'non-radicalisation'. Professor Christof Hartmann's (INEF) project approaches this research gap by examining the preventive potential of party competition in a selection of sub-Saharan countries. It is funded by the Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung (German Foundation for Peace Research) with 108,000 euros between 2020 and 2022.

Selected prizes and awards won by the Faculty:

- Prof. Christoph Bieber: Thomas Mann Fellowship
- Dr Lea Elsässer: Wilhelm Liebknecht Prize 2019 of the City of Giessen

- Prof. Michael Kaeding: Carl Schurz Professorship 2019/2020 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
- Prof. Jakob Kapeller and Claudius Gräbner: Kapp Prize 2020 for their article 'structural Change in Times of Increasing Openness: Assessing Path Dependency in European Economic Integration'
- Prof. Ute Klammer: First-Class Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for achievements in academic policy consultation
- Dr Jonas Klingwort: Gerhard Fürst Prize of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany for the best doctoral dissertation in official statistics
- Dr Jutta Schmitz-Kießler: Research Prize of Forschungsnetzwerk Alterssicherung (FNA)
- Dr Daniela Strüngmann: UDE Dissertation Prize 2020
- Prof. Achim Truger: Kurt Rothschild Prize 2020 of the Austrian Renner Institute

Transfer and sustainability

All five institutes of our Faculty recognise their social responsibility. Knowledge transfer and intensive exchange with social, political and industry stakeholders are a key element of their research. Our transfer work focuses on science and research communication with the interested (professional) public both on a dialogue basis and through educational and participatory formats. Knowledge transfer will continue to be a priority to our Faculty as we strive to make our research results available to the public and decision-makers and shape public discourse.

Our transfer activities comprise a wide range of science communication instruments, including political consulting in the strict sense, provision of expert opinions, information transfer and classification of developments in the (social) media and through other formats aimed at the general public, scientific supervision of policy consulting, networking and engaging with various stakeholders, application-oriented research projects with transfer components, field research and teaching projects involving local players, many training and professional-development programmes (including digital formats) and a large variety of publications aimed at the general (professional) public.

The IAQ, for instance, publishes three online publication series: its regular IAQ Report, which briefly and comprehensibly discusses the Institute's research results, IAQ Research containing longer research reports, and IAQ Standpunkt, a series in which employees of the Institute discuss current issues. This is in addition to its specific publications, such as the age transition report issued as part of the Age Transition Monitor system, some of which are published over the course of several years.

In recent years, the NRW School of Governance and the CIVES! School of Civic Education have bundled some of their research topics into broad categories to give specific external target groups greater insight into their relevant competences. The NRW School of Governance, for instance, offers the Master of Public Policy, a part-time career development course aimed at decision-makers and young professionals working in administrative bodies, political parties, associations, companies and the media. With its CIVES! School of Civic Education, the Faculty makes a significant contribution to boosting the visibility and profile of teacher education at UDE.

Transfer through policy consulting: German Council of Economic Experts

Professor Achim Truger of the Institute of Socio-Economics is a member of the German Council of Economic Experts. He provides knowledge transfer services in the form of high-ranking policy consultations to the Federal Government. As one of the five members of the advisory council for economic policy, he has recently been a key contributor to the 2020/2021 annual expert report, presented to the Chancellor in November 2020, a special report on carbon pricing in July 2019, and a special report on the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020.



Applied-research projects constitute another key component of the Faculty's academic transfer activities. The INEF has achieved great success in acquiring high-ranking research and consultancy projects in the past years, including a flagship project on human rights, corporate responsibility and sustainable development and a project on escaping poverty, vulnerability and food insecurity. Both are funded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. In its evaluation on the research discipline of peace and conflict studies, the German Council of Science and Humanities has lauded the INEF not only for its success in securing external funding but as a positive example in the field of transferring practically relevant knowledge.

Transfer through applied research 'ONEWORLD No Hunger'

Since October 2015, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development has been funding a study into ways of helping the world's poorest to escape extreme poverty, vulnerability and food insecurity through developmental aid from the Federal Government. It is part of the initiative 'ONEWORLD No Hunger'. During the first round of funding between 2015 and 2020, the INEF-based project received 1.15 million euros from the Ministry. The second round of funding began in 2020 with a contribution of 600,000 euros.

The research results inform further projects at the INEF, the 'AVE Studies' series, and the compact 'AVE Good Practice Series' for governmental and non-governmental aid organisations. They are continually discussed and scrutinised in workshops and small-scale expert discussions.

More information: https://www.uni-due.de/inef/projekt_ave.php

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