Master’s Thesis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master programme</th>
<th>Sociology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme specialisation</td>
<td>Politics &amp; Society: Understanding Contemporary Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic year</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECTS</td>
<td>7.5 ECTS (block 3) + 15 ECTS (block 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block</td>
<td>Block 3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Content

Students will complete the specialisation by writing a Master’s thesis that focuses on the relation between politics and society in western societies, which is written in the format of a research article. As such, a Master’s thesis in the specialisation Politics & Society is not only informed by recent insights in political sociology, political science, and related fields, but also demonstrates the ambition to contribute to ongoing scholarly debates. This calls for a thesis that is theoretically informed, theoretically relevant, and the result of a rigorous application of social-scientific methods. Although it is expected that students who opt for this specialisation have been sufficiently trained in applying these methods during their Bachelor’s studies, they are enabled to refresh their memory and skills by means of online instruction on research methods, both qualitative and quantitative.

Examples of thesis projects

- Why do less educated citizens have less political trust?
- How can the electoral implications of belief in conspiracy theories be understood?
- Anti-Islam attitudes: expressions of ethnocentrism and/or the desire to defend Enlightenment values?
- Who boycotts or ‘buycotts’, and why?
- Understanding the social bases of anti-globalisation movements: which people oppose globalisation and why do they do so?
- How and why does the political significance of religion differ between religious and secular countries?
- Understanding the political participation of minority groups: the role of underrepresentation and ‘feeling at home’ in a nation
- How can the increase in the number of floating voters be explained?
- What is the impact of social movements on government policies and how can we understand this?
- How can the increasing salience of personalisation and popularisation of politics be understood?
- How and why do multicultural policies influence ethnocentrism among native citizens?
- How can the rise of the Tea Party be understood?
- How can the rise of anti-refugee protest movements in Europe be understood?
Faculty of Social Sciences

- How does Euroscepticism affect European integration?
- How and among which social groups does globalisation affect the perceived legitimacy of national politics?
- Does public opinion affect governments’ compliance with international rules?
- Under which conditions is government policy-making responsive to voter concerns or driven by interest group interests?
- How and why are right-wing populist parties in Eastern Europe different than those in Western Europe?