Finding the Institute

The MPIfG is located south of central Cologne (Südstadt) near Ulrepforte, a medieval tower. The map shows the institute’s location. By taxi, it is a 30-minute ride from Cologne-Bonn Airport and a 10-minute ride from Cologne Central Station (Hauptbahnhof). Tell the taxi driver to take you to Paulstrasse, corner of Ulrichgasse in the Südstadt, because there is more than one Paulstrasse and more than one Max Planck institute in Cologne.

To get to the MPIfG by subway from Cologne Central Station, take Line 16 to Ulrepforte (10 minutes). From the airport train station, take the local train (S 13) to Cologne Central Station (15 minutes) and take the subway from there.
The Institute
The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne (MPIfG) was founded in 1985 under the directorship of Prof. Renate Mayntz, who was joined a year later by Prof. Fritz W. Scharpf. Today the directors are Prof. Jens Beckert and Prof. Wolfgang Streeck. Some forty to fifty research staff members, doctoral students, post-docs and visiting researchers work at the MPIfG. Many have an international background.

Mission
The MPIfG conducts advanced basic research on the governance of modern societies. It aims to develop an empirically based theory of the social and political foundations of modern economies by investigating the interrelation between economic and social action. Using primarily an institutional approach, it examines how markets and business organizations develop from the historical-institutional, political and cultural framework in which they are embedded and how these social contexts change over time. The institute seeks to build a bridge between theory and policy and to contribute to public debate on issues related to its research.

International Cooperation
The MPIfG considers international cooperation to be the most promising organizational form of comparative research. Every year, a large number of visiting researchers make valuable contributions to its work. The MPIfG also cooperates closely with several research institutes outside Germany, including the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, the Center for European Studies at Harvard University, the Centre Européen at the Institut d’Études Politiques in Paris, Sciences Po (CSO, CEVIPOF, CERI, OSC) in Paris, the CEPREMAP (Centre pour la Recherche Économique et ses Applications) in Paris, the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS) and the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University in Evanston.

Results
Results of the institute’s research projects are documented in lectures, conferences and four MPIfG publication series.

MPIfG Books are monographs aimed at the scientific community and at practitioners in government, industry and associations. Available in bookstores; older titles from the MPIfG Campus series are available on the institute website as full texts.

MPIfG Discussion Papers are articles reporting on current projects or featuring the work of a visiting researcher. They are usually subsequently published in scholarly journals. Available in print and online.

MPIfG Working Papers report on preliminary research results or contribute to current debates. Available in print and online.

MPIfG Research Reports document the results of projects completed at the institute. Available online only.

Like all Max Planck institutes, the MPIfG is subject to rigorous scrutiny by its international Scientific Advisory Board, which evaluates the institute’s research every two years. Contact with the public is enhanced by a Board of Trustees made up of representatives of government, associations, industry and the media. The website keeps the scientific community and the general public informed about the institute’s work.

A Member Institute of the Max Planck Society
The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science is the parent organization of the MPIfG. It maintains some 80 institutes and research facilities in Germany employing 4,100 scientists. Max Planck institutes perform basic research in the natural and life sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. The Max Planck Society is a non-profit organization funded mostly by the German federal government and the states.

Infrastructure
The library of the institute has 200,000 monographs and journal articles and subscribes to 220 periodicals. Using the library’s online links to databases, researchers can conduct complex searches from their desks. A state-of-the-art infrastructure ensures optimal international connectivity for the entire institute staff.

Newsletters and Mailings
If you want to receive information about the MPIfG’s work regularly, go to <www.mpifg.de> Service | Newsletters and Mailings, where you can sign up to receive the following mailings free of charge:
- Recent MPIfG Publications (e-mail newsletter)
- Recent Publications (print brochure; annual)
- Public Lectures and Events (e-mail invitations)
- MPIfG Report (print; published every two years)
- MPIfG Art Exhibit (invitation to annual exhibit)

At <www.mpifg.de> you will also find the MPIfG research program, current projects, publications by the institute and its researchers, the library catalog, news from the institute, job openings, and directions to the institute.

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Researchers are listed on www.mpifg.de > Research > Researchers