Course Title: Institutional Analyses of Organizations
Lecturer: Mark Ebers and Sigrid Quack, in cooperation with Henri Bergeron, Patrick Castel and Christine Musselin (Sciences Po Paris)

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1. Objectives
This course introduces graduate students to core theoretical underpinnings in current institutional analyses of organizations, industries and organizational fields. Our aim is to cover the major theoretical contributions to institutional analyses of organizations (old and new institutionalism, role of institutional entrepreneurs, competing logics etc.) and to examine recent advances in theory and research that extend these approaches in interesting ways. During the course, you will develop a solid understanding of different perspectives in organizational institutionalism and how they conceptualize the relationship between organizations and their institutional environment.

The course is designed to foster your skills in discussing and critiquing both theoretical arguments and empirical evidence. In order to achieve these goals, it is important that you read the required readings before the seminar. You do not only need to understand the readings and should be able to question them; you should also develop your own position in regard to the discussed readings. The seminar format supports the development of critical competences by means of preparatory memos, presentations and reflection memos (see requirements).

Being jointly taught by faculty from the University of Cologne and Sciences Po Paris and bringing together graduate students from both institutions, the seminar will offer ample opportunities for debate and exchange between senior scholars and peers from both academic institutions.

2. Prerequisites and 3. Relevance for study programmes
The course is open for PhD students of the WiSo-Faculty (including CGS and IMPRS-SPCE) and PhD students of Sciences Po Paris.

It is expected that students are proficient in English.
4. Registration
Registration via E-Mail (Gerards@mpifg.de). **Deadline** for registration: Sunday, 15 April 2012. Maximum number of participants: 20, thereof approximately 10 from Cologne. The course will be taught as a compact seminar.

5. Contents

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<td>Introduction and overview, organization of</td>
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<td><strong>Part 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reviewing core theoretical contributions</strong></td>
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<td>Bringing actors back in</td>
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<td><strong>Part 3</strong></td>
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<td>23 June, 9 am – 4 pm</td>
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**Reading list**
(Information on required reading will be provided at the introductory meeting)

“Old” Institutionalism


“New” Institutionalism


“Bringing actors back in”


Competing logics, institutional heterogeneity, ambiguities …


**Organizational action and institutional change**


**Institutional Entrepreneurship**


**How do organizations shape their institutional environment?**


How do organizations adapt to their institutional environment?


6. Working requirements and assessment method

Three preparatory memos on required readings. Each student will assigned to write brief analytic papers (max. 1 page) on the required readings for three topics of the seminar that highlights ideas or arguments you found stimulating; and questions about or disagreements with the theoretical arguments and/or concepts. Each paper should also include the discussion of a research question or hypothesis that comes from the work. The intent of the brief papers is to facilitate discussion during the seminar. You are encouraged to bring up ideas in the papers during the class session. Papers are due one week before the seminar (15th June 2012). Please send them via email to Gerards@mpifg.de. These brief analytic papers are worth 20% of your grade.

Presentations on individual topics and leading of class discussion. Each student will sign up for a particular topic from the list of topics of the course. Presentations should highlight the key insights on this topic, offer an assessment of the particular insights it provides and address any conceptual issues unresolved; please highlight how the topic fits in with the other course readings. If you wish to use the presentations as a vehicle for developing and discussing your own research ideas, that would be possible. Presentations should be in Powerpoint.

Good discussants will deliver an opener that does the following:

• Integrates the readings using an analytical framework
• Identifies and makes explicit the commonalities and differences in implicit assumptions that underlie the various readings
• Where possible, exposes theoretical gaps with suggest avenues for development beyond the readings
• Engages the other seminar participants in a discussion of the readings by taking a clear and perhaps provocative position! In doing so, avoid questions such as — what do you thinks of the authors' arguments? or — do you agree with that point? Your job is to have a position on these issues, i.e. you should have asked yourself these questions and the answer should be part of your presentation.

The presentation and leadership of class discussion will be 60% of your grade.

Reflection Memo. For each topic, students will write a brief memo that summarizes the key learnings from the class presentations and discussions. The final memo is due two weeks after class. This final memo should be 4-5 pages and is worth 20% of your grade.
7. Teaching staff

Mark Ebers is Director of the Seminar for Business Administration, Corporate Development and Organization at the WISO-Faculty. He works on the antecedents, forms, governance and outcomes of inter-organizational relations.

Sigrid Quack is Head of the Max-Planck Research Group “Institution Building across Borders” and Professor of Sociology at the WISO-Faculty. She is particularly interested in the role of organizations as institutional entrepreneurs in transnational governance.

Henri Bergeron is Research Fellow at the Center for the Sociology of Organizations (CSO) at Sciences Po in Paris. He is scientific coordinator of the Health Care Section. He conducts research on healthcare policy and changes in medical practice.

Patrick Castel is Research Fellow at the Center for the Sociology of Organizations (CSO) at Sciences Po in Paris. His research interests relate to the sociology of organized action, the sociology of medicine and professions, and the sociology of science.

Christine Musselin is Director of the Center for the Sociology of Organizations (CSO) at Sciences Po in Paris. Her research interests focus on the comparative study of the organization of higher education in Europe and the US.

8. Co-ordination/Contact
For registration please contact: Carsten Gerards (Gerards@mpifg.de)
For other question please contact: Apl. Prof. Dr. Sigrid Quack (quack@mpifg.de)