Research Landscape of the Social Sciences in Germany: Perspectives from Freie Universität Berlin

JANET Forum 2016

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Roadmap

• Approaches to Social Science Research
• Sources of Funding and Incentives
• Examples from Freie Universität Berlin
Roadmap

• Approaches to Social Science Research
• Institutional Foundations of Social Science Research in Germany
• Examples from Freie Universität Berlin
Approaches to Social Science Research

Mainstream in the United States:

- Method driven, focus on quantitative methods, econometric approaches
- Large N-Studies, little attention for single country studies
- Search for general principles that guide social behavior

Mainstream in the EU/Germany:

- Problem driven, focus on research questions
- Mixed methods approach, both large N-Studies and qualitative case studies
- Social science research is embedded in wider context of political economy and history
Roadmap

- Approaches to Social Science Research
- Institutional Foundations of Social Science Research in Germany
- Examples from Freie Universität Berlin
Institutional Foundations of Social Science Research (1)

- Most Social Science research in Germany is conducted at universities

- Social science research at extra-university research institutes: Leibniz Institutes (total of 89 research institutes, 7,700 researchers, budget total about 1.45 billion EUR) in the social sciences: 16 Leibniz Institutes (3 in Berlin)

  Leibniz Association

Max Planck Society (total of 83 research institutes, 10,000 researchers, budget total about 1.53 billion EUR)

  Max Planck Gesellschaft

5 Max Planck Institutes conduct social science research
# Leibniz Institutes with a Social Science Research Focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.diw.de/en">www.diw.de/en</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wzb.eu/en">www.wzb.eu/en</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonn</td>
<td>German Institute for Adult Education - Leibniz Center for Lifelong Learning (DIE)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.die-bonn.de">www.die-bonn.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dortmund</td>
<td>ILS - Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ils-research.de">www.ils-research.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dresden</td>
<td>IÖR - Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ioer.de/1/home">www.ioer.de/1/home</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankfurt/Main</td>
<td>German Institute for International Education and Research (DIPF)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dipf.de">www.dipf.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankfurt/Main</td>
<td>Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hsfk.de">www.hsfk.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td>GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies</td>
<td><a href="http://www.giga-hamburg.de/english">www.giga-hamburg.de/english</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannover</td>
<td>Academy for Spatial Research and Planning - Leibniz Forum for Spatial Sciences (ARL)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arl-net.de">www.arl-net.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leipzig</td>
<td>IfL - Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifl-leipzig.de/en.html">www.ifl-leipzig.de/en.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mannheim</td>
<td>Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.zew.eu">www.zew.eu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>Ifo Institute - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cesifo-group.de/ifoHome.html">www.cesifo-group.de/ifoHome.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tübingen</td>
<td>Knowledge Media Research Center (KMRC)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iwm-kmrc.de">www.iwm-kmrc.de</a></td>
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### Max Planck Institutes with a Social Science Focus

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<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>Max Planck Institute for Human Development</td>
<td><a href="https://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/en">https://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/en</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonn</td>
<td>Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coll.mpg.de">www.coll.mpg.de</a></td>
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<td>Cologne</td>
<td>Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mpifg.de">www.mpifg.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mpisoc.mpg.de">www.mpisoc.mpg.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rostock</td>
<td>Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.demogr.mpg.de/en">www.demogr.mpg.de/en</a></td>
</tr>
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Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has 52 ambassador scientists at universities and research institutions in 40 countries around the world. They do not only provide information about Germany as a major centre of research, but also and especially about the funding programmes and international network of the foundation.
More information and contact addresses:
www.humboldt-foundation.de > Humboldt Network > Ambassador Scientists

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the organisation of German higher education institutions and their student bodies devoted to internationalising the academic and scientific research system. The DAAD operates a network of 15 regional offices and 56 information centres in 60 countries as well as over 500 “Lektors” and language assistants worldwide.
More information and contact addresses:
www.daad.de/en > The DAAD > Global network

German Research Foundation (DFG)
The German Research Foundation (DFG) maintains offices in Brazil, China, India, Japan, North America and Russia. Its offices promote cooperation not only between German and international researchers, but also with the respective national funding organisations. In addition, the DFG is represented by ambassador scientists in Brazil, Chile and Mexico as well as a network of liaison scientists in Poland.
More information and contact addresses:
www.dfg.de/en > DFG in Profile > Head Office > DFG Representation Abroad
Key Funding Formats (DFG):

• Clusters of Excellence
• Collaborative Research Centers
• Research Units
• Graduate Schools
• Research Training Groups

Criteria:

• **Excellence** in research (innovative question, research problem)
• Collaborative research, crossing boundaries of disciplines, institutes and faculties
• Support for early career researchers, graduate training
• International network
• Transfer of research findings into society
Highly dynamic research process:

- Project-based funding approach
- Limited time of funding (4-12 years)
- High level of interdisciplinarity
- High importance of networks, both nationally and internationally
- Many opportunities for international cooperation
- Data generated from projects must be public domain
Roadmap

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Social Science Research at FU Berlin

- GSC North American Studies
- GSC East Asian Studies
- GSC Muslim Cultures and Societies
- Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies
- Graduate School of Global Politics
- DFG Int. Research Training Group Between Spaces – Entre Espacios
- DFG Collaborative Research Center Affective Societies
- DFG Collaborative Research Center Governance
- BMBF Research Network Desigualdades
- DFG Research Unit Organized Creativity
- DFG Research Unit The Transformative Power of Europe
- Focus Area Center for Area Studies
- History
- Political, Social Sciences
- Business and Economics
- Law