Current Topics in Public Administration Research
State Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Christina Isabel Zuber, Summer Term 2020

Weekly webinar using *Cisco Webex* , Tuesdays, 11:45-13:15:

◊ JOIN WEBEX MEETING
https://uni-konstanz.webex.com/uni-konstanz/j.php?MTID=m442ab2020838ff87aa1c8e721ada68a8
Meeting number (access code): 842 559 581
Meeting password: summer2020

◊ Meeting is opened at 11:00 and I stay on until 13:30 for questions

Tutorial for searching academic literature with Judith Heeg from the university library

◊ Join her online class: "Rechercheeinführung Proseminare" **by 3 May 2020** at
https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de/ilias/goto_ilias_uni_crs_988156.html (only in German)
◊ Learn how to search for academic literature (databases, search terms etc.)

Technical support (webex and ilias):

◊ Stefan Kebekus. Always search for a solution first by yourself. E-mail your query to
stefan.kebekus@uni-konstanz.de only if you truly cannot solve the problem on your
own

Christina's office hour:

◊ Wednesdays, 11:45-12:45 via skype (skype account: christina.zuber@uni-konstanz.de.
Email a contact request and wait for me to call you back. No need to register)

Content

The seminar introduces students to current research on crisis management in the field of public administration. We will take the Covid-19 pandemic as a case study and compare how states across the world are responding to a common challenge. How do democracies and autocracies differ in their measures? To what extent is federalism and multi-level governance a burden or an advantage? Where do we observe successful leadership, high governance capacity and legitimacy? Probing the practical utility of current public administration research, we will assess whether recent conceptual innovations like collaborative governance, new public value governance, or pragmatism help us understand how states manage the pandemic, and why some are more successful than others.

Modalities and requirements

The seminar has a substantive learning goal and topic (crisis management), and a skill learning goal (scholarly writing). This is reflected in the modalities and requirements:

During weekly webinars, we discuss key texts on crisis management and state capacity. As a **first assignment** during the semester, student teams develop **wikis** compiling and presenting information about how a state of their choice has responded to Covid-19 and present their main insights briefly during the weekly webinar. As the collection grows, students add links between wikis, thereby enabling a comparative perspective.

Basic seminars also serve to introduce students to techniques of scholarly writing. Some sessions are therefore exclusively devoted to scholarly writing skills. To this goal, there is also a cooperation with Judith Heeg from the library. As a **second assignment**, students will write a **literature review** zooming in on an aspect of crisis management that most interests them (e.g. leadership, technocratic expertise and democratic legitimacy, meaning-making, etc.) during the semester break. The literature review should be of appr. 3000 words (double spaced). It must be uploaded to Ilias in pdf format (pdf labelled with your surname) by 15 September 2020, midnight.

Grades will be based on a combination of both assignments: The wiki enters with 40%, and the literature review with 60%. Late submissions will lower your grade by 0.3 for each day your work is overdue, unless you provide a justified excuse on time. For detailed evaluation criteria for the lit review and the wiki, see separate handout in Ilias ("grading sheet").

I will provide you with more detailed guidelines on how to write a literature review in class. Please note that I have zero tolerance for plagiarism, which according to the Oxford Dictionary (online edition) is defined as "the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own". Students caught plagiarising will automatically fail the seminar. We will also discuss academic integrity and how to prevent plagiarism in class.

Instructions for the wiki:

You all have rights to upload material and edit the wiki content in ILIAS. Please try whether this works and let me know if you encounter any problems.

Your wiki should cover the following aspects

1. Preparedness: State of pandemic planning before the crisis

2. Sense-making: Development of the pandemic: infections / cured / deaths over time, including a methodological note on the country's testing and reporting logic

3. Decision-making and coordination: Measures adopted and their timing in relation to developments covered under point 2. Important: If subnational levels of government (in particular constituent units in federal systems) have relevant competencies, include a note on subnational divergence or convergence in measures.

4. Legitimacy: Trust in government officials, administrators and experts, perception of and satisfaction with crisis management among the public (look for representative surveys)

5. Overall evaluation: Assess your country's response overall and in light of the literature on crisis management (leadership, democratic accountability etc.) read in class.

6. Country's favourite stay at home song ☺

Collaboration: Compare your findings to other entries and set links and insert comments as you see fit!

Instructions for the lit review:

◊ see separate handout in Ilias

Learning Goals

Students know the main concepts and arguments of the literature on crisis management. They can assess empirical evidence in light of these concepts. They can produce evidence-based online content in a collaborative manner. Students further know how to read and summarize academic contributions in the field of public administration. They know how to find relevant literature for a given research topic and how to structure and write a literature review.

Individual sessions and literature to be prepared for each week (all literature on Ilias)

◊ Indicates practical exercises / practical to do's

28 April 2020. Introduction – how states respond to challenges

- Baldwin, Peter 2005. Beyond Weak and Strong: Rethinking the State in Comparative Policy History. *The Journal of Policy History* 17(1): 12-33.

  ◊ Familiarize yourself with the wiki on Ilias. Think about which country's response to Covid-19 you want to work on.

  ◊ For an initial rough impression on differences in measures, see https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research/research-projects/coronavirus-government-response-tracker

  ◊ Enter your chosen country into the google spreadsheet under this link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11hjy_uUF4CZSqaRxXZO5eVvLQgjGYHeKb4mcVq-TwsE/edit?usp=sharing

5 May 2020. Research Skills I & II: Proper citing and the literature review

- APSA Style Manual for Political Science Students (comprehensive instruction sheet how to cite by the American Political Science Association. Use this style manual also for writing your literature review).

- Jones, Lars R. 2011. Academic Integrity & Academic Dishonesty: A Handbook About Cheating & Plagiarism, Revised & Expanded Edition. Available at http://www.fit.edu/current/documents/plagiarism.pdf.

- Knopf, Jeffrey 2006. Doing a literature review. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 39 (1): 127-132.

  ◊ Exercise: Proper citing: 1. Identify mistakes and improve literature list in excerpt from a student's term paper in Ilias, 2. Summarise main argument in Baldwin (2005) using at least one paraphrase and one direct quote.

12 May 2020. Research Skills III: Reading, summarizing and evaluating research articles

- Hoover Green, Amelia. 2013. How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps, Drexel University.

- Handout on how to summarize and critically discuss academic publications

- Example publication to work on in the exercise: Adolph, Christopher, Keny Amano, Bree Bang-Jensen, Nancy Fullman and John Wilkerson. March 2020. Pandemic Politics: Timing State-Level Social Distancing Responses to COVID-19. Available from https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.30.20046326v1

  ◊ Exercise: Prepare a paper review of Adolph et al 2020 following the instructions in the handout "academic publications".

19 May 2020 (replacing that session): Research Skills IV: Searching social science publication

- Judith Heeg's online class (only in German) – dates for group meetings tba

- https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de/ilias/goto_ilias_uni_crs_988156.html:

  ◊ Prepare posted material in advance of joining group meetings with Judith!

26 May 2020. Crisis management – key concepts

- Christensen, Tom, Per Lægreid and Lise H. Rykkja. 2019. Organizing for Societal Security and Crisis Management. Governance Capacity and Legitimacy, in Per Lægreid and Lise H. Rykkja (eds.) *Societal Security and Crisis Management. Governance Capacity and Legitimacy*, pp. 1-23, Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave MacMillan, → read pp. 1-10.

- Boin, Arjen, 't Hart, Paul and Bengt Sundelius. 2017. *The politics of crisis management. Public leadership under pressure.* 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. → read pp. 3-22

    ◊ Work on your country-entry in Ilias wiki: "State responses to Covid-19"

2 June 2020. 'Making crises' – perceptions and framing

- Boin et al 2017 → read chapter 4 'Meaning making. Constructing a crisis narrative', pp. 78-101

- Abraham, Thomas. 2011. The Chronicle of a Disease Foretold: Pandemic H1N1 and the Construction of a Global Health Security Threat, *Political Studies* 59, pp. 797-812

    ◊ Continue work on your country-entry in Ilias wiki

9 June 2020. Deciding and coordinating

- Boin et al 2017 → read chapter 3 'Decision Making and Coordinating. Shaping the crisis response', pp. 49-77

- Keller, Ann C., Chris K. Ansell, Arthur L. Reingold, Mathilde Bourrier, Mark D. Hunter, Sahai Burrowes, and Theresa M. MacPhail. 2012. Improving Pandemic Response: A Sensemaking Perspective on the Spring 2009 H1N1 Pandemic. *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy* 3(2), pp. 1-26.

    ◊ Continue work on your country-entry in Ilias wiki

16 June 2019. Deciding and coordinating across levels

- Thomann, Eva, Philipp Trein, and Martino Maggetti. 2019. What's the problem? Multilevel governance and problem‑solving. *European Policy Analysis* 5(1): 37-57.

- Versluis, Esther, Marjolein van Asselt, and Jinhee Kim. 2019. The multilevel regulation of complex policy problems: uncertainty and the swine flu pandemic." *European Policy Analysis* 5(1): 80-98.

    ◊ Check out what supra- and subnational levels are doing in response to covid-19:

        • EU level: https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/cases-2019-ncov-eueea

        • Regional and local level: https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Pages/COVID19-exchangeplatform.aspx

    ◊ Continue work on your country-entry in Ilias wiki

23 June 2020. Letting things sink in – what have we learned so far?

- Eventual leftovers

- Literature discussed and skills acquired so far: prepare questions and comments

    ◊ Prepare a quick update on how your wiki is developing / eventual problems

30 June 2020. Pragmatism, institutional integrity and values

- Ansell, Chris, and Arjen Boin. 2019. Taming Deep Uncertainty: The Potential of Pragmatist Principles for Understanding and Improving Strategic Crisis Management. *Administration and Society*, *51*(7), 1079–1112. https://doi.org/10.1177/0095399717747655
- Seibel, Wolfgang. 2020. Autonomy, Integrity, and Values in Public Administration: A Dilemma and a Case. *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance*, Published online first as https://doi.org/10.1093/ppmgov/gvaa006

  ◊ Continue work on your country-entry in Ilias wiki

7 July 2020. Public trust and legitimacy

- Amat, Francesc, Albert Falcó-Gimeno, Andreu Arenas and Jordi Muñoz. 2020. Pandemics meets democracy: Experimental evidence from the COVID-19 crisis in Spain. Unpublished manuscript, available from https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/dkusw/.
- Bertsou, Eri and Daniele Caramani. (forthcoming). People Haven't Had Enough of Experts: Technocratic Attitudes among Citizens in Nine European Democracies. Manuscript under review, available from http://eribertsou.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/BertsouCaramani2019.pdf

  ◊ Finalise work on your country-entry in Ilias wiki

14 July 2019. Wiki presentation and wrap-up of the seminar

  ◊ Prepare a short presentation of your wiki, focusing on the aspects of your state's response you consider most interesting (5 minutes). Try to draw comparisons to other entries.