

H 2317 Project

4 hrs per week/8 credits

Social Work in the EU context - system comparison and empirical social research

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Holdenrieder / Dr. Julia Staiger-Engel

Following their learning experiences in the practical semester, the project is designed to show students how theory is related to practice in a specific area of professional activity. The tasks involved in translating the themes of the project from theory to practice give the students the opportunity to plan, carry out and reflect upon a professionally relevant piece of work, either individually or in a group.

Aims / Contents:

EU Bodies and Introduction to International Comparison of Systems

- Presentation of the central EU bodies
- Identification of common challenges
- Analysis of different frameworks
- Presentation of types of welfare state
- Critical discussion of the opportunities and risks which arise from comparisons

Selected Studies of EU Countries

- Identification of literature and Internet research possibilities for comparing international systems
- Presentation of examples of international social and economic systems
- Critical analysis and discussion of findings gained up till now in an international context

Preliminary Considerations concerning Project Management/Empiricism

- Basics of (international) project management
- Selection of fields for empirical investigation
- Selection of countries for empirical investigation
- Selection of objects of comparison

Practical Considerations concerning the Use of Empiricism

- Initiation of contact with the objects of comparison
- Agreement of timetables and organisational matters for fieldwork
- Agreement and organisation of travel plans

Comparative Research Method: Expert Interviews

- Presentation of the operationalisation process
- Establishing question types and techniques
- Construction and design of the interview protocol
- Writing the interview protocol
- Carrying out preliminary tests

Data Collection

- Carrying out data collection in the field
- Critical discussion of the data collection process

Data Evaluation

- Preparations for and implementation of the data extraction
- Establishing the method of data preparation
- Presentation of the evaluation procedure and structure of the project report

Examination: The examination in the 5th semester consists of a piece of work which is typical for the module. The examination in the 6th semester consists of an extended essay. The examination requirement is to write a project report in the form of an extended essay. The examination in the 5th semester will be held during the semester. The extended essay in the 6th semester is to be written during the semester or by the end of the examination period.

Total workload in the semester: 400hrs

Contact time: 4+4 hours per week = 120 hrs, Independent study: 220hrs,

Examination time (including time for revision): 60hrs