

Call for papers

Causal Inference in the Social Sciences

at the University of Leipzig

25th and 26th of July 2019

We kindly invite young researchers and distinguished scholars to contribute to our workshop on causal inference in the social sciences. This workshop aims to discuss the following questions: What does causality mean within the social sciences? How important is social theory for causal analysis? Are we interested in causal effects or causal interpretations or both? Are there different approaches to causality in the social sciences? How valuable are empirical descriptions with observational data? How far is the counterfactual approach applicable in the social sciences? Do graphical causal models provide a simple causal framework or oversimplification? How relevant is the notion of/focus on effect sizes in causal analyses? The workshop is also open to other aspects related to causality and causal inference.

This two-day workshop aims to generate practical suggestions on how far the concepts of causality can be tackled in the social sciences. The following three speakers will provide keynotes on the counterfactual approach and its pitfalls:

- 1) **Prof. Julian Reiss** (Durham University)
- 2) **Andrea Tartakowsky** (Nuffield College & Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University)
- 3) **Cecilia Potente** (Nuffield College, Oxford University & Jacobs Centre for Productive Youth Development, University of Zurich)

At this workshop, young scholars (PhD students and PostDocs) will present and reflect on how far concepts of causality are important for their research and how they aim to address these

issues (10 minutes oral presentation and 10 minutes discussion). The invited keynote speakers will also discuss the presentations given by the workshop participants.

Places are limited to 15 young scholars. This workshop is supported by the “Akademie für Soziologie” and the University of Leipzig. Workshop participation is free of charge. However, travel, accommodation and workshop dinner expenses will not be covered. Lunches will be provided. Priority in admission will be given to members of the “Akademie für Soziologie”.

Applications have to be sent by e-mail (causality@uni-leipzig.de) before **16th of April 2019**, and should include

- a) an abstract of the paper that will be presented (up to 500 words);
- b) a brief CV (one page).

Further information on the workshop will be provided on the following homepage:

<https://home.uni-leipzig.de/~causality>

We look forward to your contribution and welcoming you at the University of Leipzig,

Dr. Stephan Poppe and Dr. Pia Blossfeld