



Call for Papers

Workshop

„Causality in the Social Sciences II“

Last year's Nobel Prize in economics was given to a research group using randomized controlled trials (RCT) to analyse worldwide poverty (c.f. Duflo 2011). Random assignment to treatment and non-treatment conditions in experimental studies is one way to detect underlying causal mechanisms. Nonetheless, the question of causality has become important in other disciplines like social and political sciences, too. Although, the research design in observational data is not ex ante perfect to handle (self-)selection into treatment, various ex-post estimation strategies are able to ensure causal interpretation at least to a certain extent. We kindly invite young researchers and distinguished scholars from the fields of social and political sciences, economics, medical and health sciences and philosophy to contribute to our workshop titled "**Causality in the Social Sciences II**". This subsequent workshop aims to discuss and reflect up-to-date developments in research and open questions on causality from an interdisciplinary perspective and focusses on three purposes.

- First, it deepens the **understanding of causality** in the social sciences on a theoretical-analytical level.
- Second, it highlights **research designs and statistical methods** to support causal interpretation on an applied empirical level. This implies experimental research designs as well as estimation strategies for observational data, and the critical reflection of strengths and pitfalls.
- Third, it provides a place to discuss results of **replication studies** directly confronting naive and more sophisticated estimation strategies: Do different methods provide different results?

Hence, core questions to be addressed are related to the general relation between description and explanation, the counterfactual approach itself, adequate estimation strategies for causal inference, advantages and disadvantages of experimental and observational data. But, the workshop is also open to other aspects related to causality and causal inference.

This two-day workshop aims to provide a broad overview on the one hand and to generate practical suggestions on how far the concepts of causality can be tackled in the social sciences on the other hand. Therefore, we are pleased to announce that the following two speakers agreed to provide keynotes:

- **Prof. Dr. Felix Elwert** (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA)
- **Prof. Dr. Michael Lechner** (University of St. Gallen, Switzerland)
- **Prof. Dr. Jan Marcus** (University Hamburg, Germany)

Besides these more general talks, young scholars (PhD students and PostDocs) have the opportunity to present and reflect on how far aspects of causality are important for their research (15-20 minutes presentations and 10-15 minutes discussion). The presentations will be discussed by the invited keynote speakers as well as all other workshop participants.

The workshop is restricted to a maximum number of 30 participants in order to ensure intensive exchange and feedback on ongoing-work.

DZHW Organising Team

Sebastian Lang, Ulrike Schwabe, Monika Jungbauer-Gans

Date

October 8th/9th, 2020

Location

German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW)
Lange Laube 12
30159 Hanover
Germany

Submission

We appreciate empirical contributions from various disciplines, in particular from Economics, the Social Sciences and Education.

Presentations should be held in English. Further information on the workshop will be provided on the following website:

<https://causality2020.dzhw.eu>

Please submit a short abstract (maximum 500 words) and a brief CV (one page) by May 31st, 2020 to causality@dzhw.eu

Contact

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