



BAMBERG
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



9th Winter School Highlights

14 – 21 February 2020

Winter School in numbers



■ People

415

Participants

183

Institutions

76%

First-timers



■ Courses

30

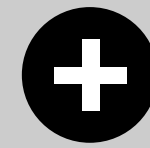
Main
Courses

16

Short
Courses

3

Advanced
Workshops



■ Add-ons

3

Free Morning
Courses

10

Methods Café
Tables

2

Hot Lunchtime
Debates



■ Feedback

85%

Would
recommend
their course

9 in 10

Found their
course useful

7 in 10

Plan to attend
again in the
next year



■ BAGSS

6

ECPR Winter
School events
hosted

2.5K

Participants in
6 years

24

Local
organising
team members

A word from the host

As the sixth and final instalment of the Winter School in Bamberg drew to a close, we asked Thomas Saalfeld of the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences to reflect on his experience as a Local Academic Convenor and on what hosting brought to his institution.

When was your first experience of the ECPR Methods School?

My very first experience was the first Winter School we hosted in Bamberg. I was familiar with the Methods Schools and knew a number of scholars that founded it, but I had not had any immediate exposure to it.

What interested you in hosting the Winter School?

When we applied to host the Winter School, we felt that it would enhance our profile as an international institution for the study and application of empirical research methods in the social and human sciences. At the time, we were a fledgling School. Being a small city, Bamberg is not well-known on the international academic map – despite the prominence of some of its social scientists in the past. For example, Ulrich Beck, Hans-Peter Blossfeld, Ursula Hoffmann-Lange and some others had been professors at Bamberg. But we wanted to demonstrate that we are a place that does not rest on such laurels.

We also hoped that the Winter School would provide opportunities for our doctoral fellows not just by bringing a wealth of first-rate courses to Bamberg but also by giving them the chance to serve as teaching assistants.

Was the experience what you had expected it to be?

Yes, I feel the Winter School helped to put Bamberg on the map and expanded the opportunities for many of our doctoral fellows. Also, collaboration with leading scholars and institutions have developed as Bamberg doctoral fellows and academics used the contacts they made during the Winter School events.

What did you enjoy most about organising the Winter School?

The most enjoyable part was the work with the Academic Convenors and the ECPR Events Team. It was wonderful to welcome so many promising young scholars in our School. Not least, it brought many great colleagues – some of them good friends – back to Bamberg as course Instructors. Interaction with the Instructors certainly expanded my horizon as far as advanced methods are concerned.

What do you feel hosting the Winter School has brought to the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences?

It brought a number of things to the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences. I have already mentioned international visibility and a clear orientation of our own work on the good practice we could observe in methods teaching during the Winter School. It also enhanced our experience with the organisation of large international educational events from the most general academic concept down to the details of local implementation.

What advice can you offer future hosts?

Hosting a Methods School is a serious commitment. Support from the ECPR Events Team and the Academic Convenors is very professional indeed. But don't underestimate the resources and goodwill you need to generate within your institution. There will be unexpected events that threaten to throw things off course, but overall, it has been a rewarding experience.



■ **"Hosting the Winter School helped to put Bamberg on the map and expanded the opportunities for many of our doctoral fellows. Also, some collaborations with leading scholars and institutions have developed as Bamberg doctoral fellows and academics used the contacts they made during the Winter School events."**

– Thomas Saalfeld, Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, ECPR Winter School Local Academic Convenor 2015–2020

What our participants say about the Winter School



“An invaluable experience, learning and workshopping with the scholar who literally wrote the book on the methodology that I'm using in my dissertation project.”



“It was a real pleasure to be there and in an inspiring environment.”



“
The organisation was excellent, especially the possibility to attend the Methods Café as well as other free courses. This is a great added value to the overall great programme.
”



“
Very useful courses and good lecturers. Keep on doing this fantastic job!
”



“
Thank you for the week, it's been inspiring!
”



“
The ECPR Winter School is a great experience. The Instructors are very good, the environment is enjoyable, and the ECPR staff are very helpful.
”





**What our
participants
say about the
courses**



Introduction to Process Tracing, taught by Hilde Van Meegdenburg

"Today, process tracing methods are exceptionally popular among political scientists. Yet few engage them in a comprehensive, critical manner. Hilde van Meegdenburg's course does just that"

– Moritz Graefrath, University of Notre Dame



Synthetic Control Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation, taught by Bruno Castanho Silva

"It was a great pleasure to take part in this course. This is a short course, and quite intense, but it gives you a solid benchmark on how to apply Synthetic Control Method directly to your own research. Highly recommended!"

– Paulina Lenik, University College London



Tools for the Analysis of Complex Systems, taught by Lasse Gerrits

"For those new to systems thinking, this course is excellent. It takes you through the history of the theories in the field, and allows you to work with the programmes that systems research uses to make sense of non-linear, emergent structures that policymakers want to grasp and influence."

– Melanie van Driel, Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development



Introduction to Qualitative Interpretive Methods, taught by Marie Østergaard Møller

"I'm not exaggerating when I say this is the most useful course I have done so far in academia. Marie is an outstanding teacher and the material she covers really made me think differently about my research. I would highly recommend anyone who is starting out designing their research to take this course!"

– Liam O'Farrell, University of Iceland



Focus Groups – From Qualitative Data Generation to Analysis, taught by Virginie Van Ingelgom

"This is a hands-on course that helps you think through important steps of your focus group design. Virginie Van Ingelgom is fantastic, gives you individual feedback and makes sure that all PhDs leave the Winter School with concrete ideas for their project. I highly recommend this course!"

– Judith de Jong, University of Amsterdam



Visualisation of Information, taught by Martin Mölder (FREE course)

"When I signed up for the Winter Methods School, I didn't realise I would also get to attend 'free' courses! But after having seen one offered on data visualisation in R, it was clear I had to go. Even though Martin's course was less than an hour each morning, it really helped me to design better plots and convey information more effectively."

– Markus Gastinger, University of Salzburg





10th Winter School in Methods and Techniques

2021, KU Leuven

Dates to be announced

■ ecpr.eu/winterschool

KU LEUVEN

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