7TH AACHEN INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IN RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA SCIENCE (ACISS)

THEORIZING IN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

DR. BASTIAN KINDERMANN

TU Dortmund University
Faculty of Business and Economics
Chair for Technology & Management

Contact: bastian.kindermann@tu-dortmund.de

SUMMER 2021
1 COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Name: Theorizing in Management Research

Degree Programmes:
1. Post-Docs and PhD students
2. Master BWL (all specializations): MSBW10, MSBW13
   Master Wirtschaftswissenschaften (all specializations):
   MSWiWi10, MSWiWi14
   Master Wirt.-Ing. (MSWiBau, MSWiEET, MSWiWPT,
   MSWiMB, all specializations): MSWi10, MSWi15

Lecturer: Dr. Bastian Kindermann

Contact: bastian.kindermann@tu-dortmund.de

Location and Time: Kackertstraße 7, B301 or B037 or online
20 to 24 September, 9 AM - 4 PM

Content Description: “Theory is the currency of our scholarly realm” (Corley & Gioia, 2011, p. 12). Despite the continued rise of ever more sophisticated methodological tools during the past years, this claim has not lost any of its validity. In this 1-week summer school course, we will explore the nature and use of theories within management research. Specifically, the course content covers four main areas: 1) Structure, types, and occurrence of theory; 2) Theoretical puzzles and contributions; 3) Anatomy of theoretical arguments; and 4) Creativity and theory construction. Together, these four areas will provide participants not only with a thorough understanding of what theory is (and what it is not), but also with hands-on guidance on how to effectively use theory in their dissertations and theses.

Qualification Objectives: After attending this course, participants should be in a position to:
- Understand the nature and structure of theories
- Derive theoretically meaningful research questions
- Extend and/ or blend existing theories
- Engage in processes of new theory construction
- Communicate theory contributions effectively

Literature: See readings below

Course Examination: 1. Individual, written research proposal (50%)
2. Group presentation and critique of published paper (50%)

Participation Requirements: No formal requirement

Group Size: 20 participants (max)

Workload: 30 hours of lecturing and group work
120 hours of additional individual and group preparation

Type of Teaching Event: Lecture with integrated individual and group work

Language: English

Credits: 5
2 SCOPE OF THE COURSE

“Theory is the currency of our scholarly realm” (Corley & Gioia, 2011, p. 12). Despite the continued rise of ever more sophisticated methodological tools during the past years, this claim has not lost any of its validity. In this 1-week summer school course, we will explore the nature and use of theories within management research. Specifically, the course content covers four main areas: 1) Structure, types, and occurrence of theory; 2) Theoretical puzzles and contributions; 3) Anatomy of theoretical arguments; and 4) Creativity and theory construction. Together, these four areas will provide participants not only with a thorough understanding of what theory is (and what it is not), but also with hands-on guidance on how to effectively use theory in their dissertations and theses.

Learning objectives

- Understand the nature and structure of theories
- Derive theoretically meaningful research questions
- Extend and/ or blend existing theories
- Engage in processes of new theory construction
- Communicate theory contributions effectively

3 PARTICIPANTS AND REQUIREMENTS

Participants

1. Post-Docs and PhD students
2. Master BWL (all specializations): MSBW10, MSBW13
   Master Wirtschaftswissenschaften (all specializations): MSWiWi10, MSWiWi14
   Master Wirt.-Ing. (MSWiBau, MSWiEET, MSWiWPT, MSWiMB, all specializations): MSWi10, MSWi15

Due to the interactive teaching format, the number of participants is limited to 20. Advanced master students are invited to participate, but preference will be given to PhD students.

Grading

I: Individual, written research proposal on a topic of participants’ choice. The proposal needs to include an outline of theoretical foundations and intended contributions (50%, to be submitted a few days after the end of the course).

II: Group presentation and critique of a published, conceptual paper from one of the top management journals (50%, to be presented on the last day of the course).

Passing grades can only be granted to participants who have not missed more than 20% of total class time.
4 COURSE STRUCTURE

The lecture elements (morning sessions) are complemented with groupwork-based exercise elements (afternoon sessions) in which the taught content is put into practice. As these exercise elements are largely based on reading and analyzing (parts of) articles, participants should bring their own laptops / computers. The results of the exercises will be jointly discussed in class.

5 LITERATURE

Introductory Readings


Supplementary Readings


Contact Details

Dr. Bastian Kindermann
TU Dortmund University
Chair for Technology & Management

Vogelpothsweg 87
44227 Dortmund

Tel: (+49)231 755-8343
Email: bastian.kindermann@tu-dortmund.de