



Annual Meeting of the Section Methods of Political Science (DVPW)

May 5–6, 2023
Göttingen, Germany



Program

Friday, May 5

T1 : Paper Track, **T2** : Presentation Track

13:00–13:15	Welcome		
		Sabrina Mayer, Arndt Leininger, Julian Dehne, Valentin Gold	Welcome and introduction by the organizers
13:15–14:45	Panel 1: Measurement		
	T1	Anna Kurella, Milena Rapp	Combining voter preferences with party position estimates from different sources for studying voting behavior and representation
	T2	Lena Masch, Maaïke D. Homan, Oul Han	Smiling Face or Frowning Face? Comparing Emotion Recognition Algorithms for Applications in Political Communication Research
	T2	Constantin Kaplaner, Maximilian Haag, Steffen Hurka	From bill to law: how the complexity of policy proposals evolves over the European Union's legislative process
14:45–15:15	Coffee		
15:15–16:15	Panel 2: Applications		
	T1	Julia Schulte-Cloos, Veronica Anghel	Right-wing authoritarian attitudes, fast-paced decision-making, and the spread of misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines
	T2	Madeleine Siegel, Sabrina J. Mayer	Political Exclusion and Support for Democracy
16:15–16:30	PolSci Services		
		Michael Czolkoß-Hettwer	Introduction to Pollux and its Services
16:30–16:45	Coffee		
16:45–18:15	Panel 3: Best Practices in Research & Teaching		
	T2	Martin Elff	Testing the hypothesis of constant probability in multi-category response models
	T1	Denis Cohen	Triangular visualizations: Making sense of statistical significance in multi-group comparisons
	T2	Kilian Seng	Best Practice? Exams in Times of Artificial Intelligence
18:15–18:30	Coffee		
18:30–19:15	DVPW Section Member Meeting		
19:30–	Conference Dinner at Kartoffelhaus		

Saturday, May 6

T1: Paper Track, **T2**: Presentation Track

09:00-10:30	Panel 4: Text as Data		
	T2	Sebastian Block, Morten Harmening, Dominic Nyhuis	Automatic Dictionary Creation for Political Text Analysis: Introducing A Versatile and Efficient Approach
	T2	Andreas Blätte	The language model matters: Implementing workflows combining quantity and quality with polmineR
	T1	Paul Drecker	The Effect of Parameters on the Quality of topic modeling at the semantic space
10:30-11:00	Coffee		
11:00-12:30	Panel 5: Survey and Data Collection		
	T2	Lisa Walter	Racism Experience and Gender – Reasons for Unit Nonresponse in Panel Studies?
	T2	Jonas Elis	Explaining Unit-nonresponse and Panel Attrition Among Immigrant-origin Voters in an Address-based Local Campaign Panel Survey
	T1	Achim Goerres, Jakob Kemper, Jan Karem Höhne	Political Solidarities in Novaland: Can we Simulate the Experience of States, Economies and Public Policies in a Virtual Online State?
12:30-12:45	Farewell		

Friday, May 5

Combining voter preferences with party position estimates from different sources for studying voting behavior and representation

Anna Kurella, Milena Rapp

T1

Discussant: Achim Goerres

Researchers interested in policy voting face the challenge to combine party positions with voter preference data on a common scale. However, election surveys only seldom provide items on party positions beyond the ideological scale. We consider two prominent alternative sources of party position estimates: expert survey positions, and positions based on the CMP coding scheme of the manifesto project. While these different sources of party position estimates have been cross-validated against each other, we clearly still lack a systematic comparison of their performance in models of voting behavior. This paper fills the gap by evaluating the performance of party position estimates from different sources. Our benchmark is position estimates based on perceptual data that we further rescale by a technique developed by Aldrich and McKelvey, in order to correct for bias by differential item functioning (DIF). Additionally, we propose two rescaling techniques to improve the fit of party positions from external sources and the voter distribution. One relies on a simple mean voter adjustment, the other takes the dispersion of party voters into account, to stretch or shrink the external party positions onto the voter distribution. Our empirical results based on various data sources including the GLES 2021 and the CSES demonstrate that perceived party positions are superior to external position estimates in terms of vote model fit. Of the two alternative position estimates, expert survey data perform better than positions based on CMP coding. Rescaling of external party positions improves the model fit.

Smiling Face or Frowning Face? Comparing Emotion Recognition Algorithms for Applications in Political Communication Research

Lena Masch, Maaike D. Homan, Oul Han

T2

The application of emotion recognition algorithms is highly relevant for political communication research and has become more widespread in recent years. Using politicians' emotional displays as visual input poses several new challenges. Hence, the question arises whether these different algorithms obtain similar classifications with regard to real-life datasets used in political communication research. Therefore, this study compares and evaluates different emotion recognition algorithms in order to detect potential limitations in their empirical applications. We compare three emotion recognition algorithms: FaceReader, Microsoft Azure, and OpenFace. Their performance is compared across three datasets with a focus on displays of happiness and anger: First, we analyze the performance on a diverse dataset of public images of parliamentarians from India, South Africa, and the European Parliament. Second, an additional sample is created by using face-morphing techniques on a subset of the first dataset in order to test the performance of the three algorithms with regard to anger expressions. Lastly, we analyze case studies with high face validity in order to test the application of real-life scenarios. Emotional expressions in parliaments occasionally gain media attention when parliamentarians behave in noticeable ways. Hence, the performance of the algorithms is tested on short video clips that have largely been perceived as being emotional. These case studies further enable us to test differences of classification outcomes with regard to discrete emotions that are prevalent in political communication.

From bill to law: how the complexity of policy proposals evolves over the European Union's legislative process

Constantin Kaplaner, Maximilian Haag, Steffen Hurka

T2

The content of policy proposals changes to varying extents over the course of the legislative process. In some instances, the text introduced by the agenda setter is almost left untouched by the decision-makers; in other cases, the final act hardly resembles the initial proposal. In this paper, we contribute to a better understanding of how the bicameral decision-making process influences policy outputs by focusing on changes in their complexity.

Policy complexity has important implications for the burden placed on practitioners, ordinary citizens and the existing legal landscape alike. We thus investigate how the complexity of policy proposals adopted by the European Commission between 1994 and 2022 changed during their legislative negotiations. We employ a text-as-data approach to measure several indicators of policy complexity, track the change of these indicators as the Commission proposals move through the EU's legislative process and analyze the degree to which institutional and political factors help to explain the variance in complexity change. In particular, we put our focus on procedural, political as well as policy-specific features of the legislative process. The paper thus adopts an innovative perspective on the analysis of legislative negotiations and sheds new light on the crucial question of how political actors jointly shape policy output.

In addition to addressing important substantive questions, we provide new data on the complexity of EU laws alongside a software package that integrates with the spaCy NLP library while providing a standardized and reproducible approach to the analysis of EU legal text throughout the legislative process.

Right-wing authoritarian attitudes, fast-paced decision-making, and the spread of misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines

Julia Schulte-Cloos, Veronica Anghel

T1

Discussant: Denis Cohen

Social media played a prominent role in the spread of vaccine-related fake news during the global COVID-19 crisis. Previous work has shown that both trait-related and situational factors influence the spread of fake news on social media. However, we have limited insight into how the specific contextual conditions that shape information processing on social media contribute to the proliferation of misinformation. In this article, we posit that people are more susceptible to spreading misinformation because they engage selectively, briefly, and heuristically with political news on social media. To test our argument, we rely on a pre-registered online experiment conducted in two Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, Hungary and Romania. We designed this experiment to reflect the fast and impulsive decision-making that is characteristic of online behaviour on social media platforms. The results support the idea that individuals' tendency to disseminate fake news is amplified by conditions of fast-paced and impulsive decision-making. The effect is particularly pronounced among respondents with right-wing authoritarian attitudes. This suggests that the fast and intuition-reliant nature of decision-making on social media encourages the spread of such misinformation that is in line with individuals' ideological beliefs, which could increase social polarisation in societies.

Political Exclusion and Support for Democracy

Madeleine Siegel, Sabrina J. Mayer

T2

Voting is the least unequal form of political participation as regardless of resources all individuals have only one vote. However, this perception disregards the rising number of inhabitants in democratic countries that cannot vote at national elections. This exclusion not only affects those below the voting age but also those with foreign citizenship. For example, in Germany, about 8 million inhabitants of voting age that largely follow the same obligations as other citizens are deprived of the most essential form of political participation. How does the exclusion from basic rights affect individuals' support for democracy, the democratic system and its institutions? We rely on data from the DeZIM.panel, a randomly sampled, online access panel of the German residential population, oversampling immigrants with more than 3,000 participants, using two recent waves fielded one year apart. We analyze how electoral exclusion relates to specific and diffuse support for democracy compared to similar individuals with citizenship. We argue that withholding the right to vote puts a political system at risk of losing its fundamental basis of support – a great danger for a democracy.

Testing the hypothesis of constant probability in multi-category response models

Martin Elff

T2

A common problem in the interpretation of multinomial logit models is the large number of coefficients they involve. Yet often researchers are not interested in these coefficient but whether independent variables affect response categories and to what degree. In a recent article published by *Political Analysis*/ Paolino (2020) argues that it is not only possible but also recommendable to address thus questions by looking at the statistical significance of probability changes. The proposed paper shows that this recommendation is misleading. Due to the functional form of multinomial logit models, the probability of the occurrence of any response category cannot be constant unless the probabilities of /all/ response categories are constant with respect to the independent variable in question. Hence, the apparent statistical insignificance of a probability change with respect to a particular response category can only be the consequence of a lack of statistical power.

The hypothesis of constant probability with regards to a single response category or any combination of response categories with respect to an independent variable may nevertheless be of substantial interest. The paper demonstrates that such substantive hypotheses can be tested within the framework of a simple extension of multinomial logit models - sequential logit models. It also shows that an implementation of this model extension is straightforward and surprisingly simple. Finally, the paper presents such an implementation using the statistical software R.

Triangular visualizations: Making sense of statistical significance in multi-group comparisons

Denis Cohen

T1

Discussant: Paul Drecker

Researchers often aim to compare estimates across groups. For an intuitive and compact presentation of empirical results, many practitioners report group-specific estimates and subsequently seek to infer the statistical significance of pairwise differences based on overlap in the confidence intervals of the group-specific estimates. This practice is plagued with problems: As increasingly acknowledged, overlap in the 95% confidence intervals of two estimates does not imply the statistical insignificance of their pairwise difference; the use of generic downward-adjusted confidence intervals rests on stringent assumptions which fail to hold in most social science applications; and exact adjustments of marginal confidence intervals for hypothesis testing do not extend from binary to multi-group comparisons. This letter proposes the use of triangular visualizations, which allow for compact combinations of group-specific estimates with accurate information on the statistical significance of pairwise differences even for complex multi-group comparisons and introduces a corresponding open-source software implementation.

Best Practice? Exams in Times of Artificial Intelligence

Kilian Seng

T2

With the introduction of ChatGPT, many universities started to question their exams. Some changed from online exams or open book exams to handwritten exams in person. Others explicitly forbid the use of ChatGPT or similar AI technologies for term papers. As these AI technologies will rather grow than disappear within the next years, the question arises how these technologies can be used in a productive way and still allow for examination of individual skills or achievements in social sciences. My contribution is to give an overview over the kind of tasks AI can perform actually – and which tasks are not possible (yet). This allows to adapt tasks in exams in order to be able to identify individual contributions of students. A second aspect is how to identify machine written text in order to sanction it in case of “questionable authorships”. As the reliability of classifiers, whether a text is machine written or by a human, is not sufficiently high yet, I propose a concordance-based approach in order to detect machine written texts in the context of exams.

Saturday, May 6

Automatic Dictionary Creation for Political Text Analysis: Introducing A Versatile and Efficient Approach

Sebastian Block, Morten Harmening, Dominic Nyhuis

T2

Discussant: tba

Social scientists use dictionaries to solve various text-as-data tasks like classifying parliamentary questions according to broadly used coding-schemes or to determine sentiment of tweets. Dictionary-based approaches for automated text classification are particularly useful when the classification task cannot be achieved through manual coding and when hand-coded material is not available for training a classifier. So far, researchers rely primarily on manually curated keyword lists to build such dictionaries. In addition to being a resource-intensive process, the validity of the resulting word lists is at times doubtful. We propose an alternative resource-efficient approach that automatically generates suitable keywords from political texts and which can be adjusted to various research interests. We determine the most impactful words per topic via a voting model using three different metrics of word impact per topic. We demonstrate the utility of the approach by creating dictionaries to measure the issue salience of manifestos according to the Comparative Agenda Project's coding scheme for Germany and the United Kingdom. Our results show high face validity and are comparable to similar issue salience measures from the Manifesto Research on Political Representation Project (MARPOR).

The language model matters: Implementing workflows combining quantity and quality with polmineR

Andreas Blätte

T2

The plea to „validate, validate, validate“ (Grimmer, Stewart 2013) is a decade old in the text-as-data realm. However, whereas current default R text-as-data tools are powerful in turning words into numbers, their unidirectional quantitative orientation inhibits returning to the text for qualitative inspection and validation. This unidirectionality is a question of design. Seamlessly integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches to text is a matter of the data model chosen for processing language. The language model implemented by the ‚Corpus Workbench‘ (CWB) maintains the token order (the sequence of the original text) yet is efficient and fast by indexing corpus data, keeping a reverse index for word lookup, and performing data compression. The CWB is a classic and mature tool widely used in corpus and computational linguistics to combine quantitative and qualitative text data approaches. The language model of the CWB facilitates combining quantity and quality for validation (“quantification”) and using all kinds of linguistic annotation simultaneously. Moreover, the CWB data model maintains metadata and annotations at different hierarchical levels. Annotations of paragraphs, sentences, named entities, noun phrases etc., can be stored. In my presentation, I want to present my work to make the potential of the CWB more accessible for R users. More specifically, I present three of my R packages available at CRAN: 1) ‚RcppCWB‘ includes the C code of the Corpus Workbench and exposes its performance and functionality by way of C++/Rcpp wrappers. 2) ‚cwbtools‘ offers tools for building CWB-indexed corpora, and 3) ‚polmineR‘ offers the verbs and nouns for corpus analysis. To demonstrate how polmineR serves as a tool to implement combined workflows with quantitative and qualitative steps, I will use the GermaParl2 corpus (all debates in the German Bundestag 1949-2021, 270 million tokens). The public release of GermaParl2 is scheduled for May 23 (Tag des Grundgesetzes), so presenting polmineR would also promote fresh data.

The Effect of Parameters on the Quality of topic modeling at the semantic space

Paul Drecker

T1

Discussant: Julia Schulte-Cloos

The increasing access to large-scale textual data such as newspapers, speeches, and texts in social media opens up new perspectives and possibilities for answering political science questions. Recent studies show that newly developed models based on large pre-trained language models demonstrate a more precise topic mapping than previously used approaches like LDA. At the same time, these models have two disadvantages: First, due to the increasingly large data sets needed, the newer models require a large amount of computing resources and calculation time which only a limited number of researchers can afford. Moreover, increased computer capacity implies increased electricity consumption, resulting in higher carbon dioxide emissions and leading to higher costs and an environmental issue. Second, the newer models run with more parameters that influence the quality of the topics. In topic modeling, various measures of the quality of topics are known. However, the established approach is to use the metrics as a guide but then set the final parameters based on the experience of the researchers. Due to the increasing number of parameters, the number of possible models increases, and the complexity rises. At the same time, how much a change in the parameters affects the documents to topics assignment is unknown. If a change in parameters leads to a significant shift in the assignment, this parameter should be considered in the final selection of the model. Hence, this article focuses on two related research questions: a) Which parameters affect the quality of the topics and b) does the modification of parameters lead to a significant shift in the assignment of documents to topics?

Answering these questions will provide evidence on whether researchers may focus on a specific subset of parameters in running these newer models to spare calculation resources and time. The results also provide an understanding of the robustness of the models to parameter changes. Accordingly, when selecting the final model, researchers can mainly control for parameter changes that strongly affect the documents to topics assignment. To provide these answers, this analysis will observe the effect of different parameters by computing a large number of models with parameter combinations on datasets with varying lengths of documents. In order to evaluate the quality of the models, I employ a set of quality metrics. Additionally, I observe the changes in document to topic assignments across all parameters and analyze the distribution of these assignments. This allows me to gain insight into the effects of the different Parameters and make informed comparisons between them.

Racism Experience and Gender – Reasons for Unit Nonresponse in Panel Studies?

Lisa Walter

T2

The most important (social) prerequisite of survey studies is that the members of the target population have no concerns about the survey's presumed objective. If some of the respondents are critical or suspicious of the aim of the survey and therefore don't participate, unit nonresponse can become a significant problem for survey research. Particularly if it is not random, it can lead to biased estimations. Typical causes for unit nonresponse are for example refusal, illness and unavailability, but can also be related to language and communication hurdles. Previous research from the U.S. context furthermore shows that, due to varying privacy concerns related to experiences of (structural and institutional) racism, white people are more likely to participate in surveys than Black people. Furthermore, researchers found that women are more likely to participate than men. With my paper, I seek to add to the existing literature by analysing how self-experienced racism and gender affect nonresponse and dropout rates in panel studies, and discussing the interconnection of racism-experience and gender (e.g. with reference to the analytical framework of intersectionality). Thereby, I focus on the case of Germany, where racism is only since recently being increasingly taken into account in (quantitative) social science research. My data basis comes from the NaDiRa.panel, which is conducted by the German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) with the aim of monitoring racism in Germany, which is why suitable response rates of people who experience racism, are especially importance here.

Explaining Unit-nonresponse and Panel Attrition Among Immigrant-origin Voters in an Address-based Local Campaign Panel Survey

Jonas Elis

T2

In population surveys, response rates are often lower for immigrant-origin groups than for natives. This participation difference can be explained by several factors, most notably individual characteristics of the target persons (such as gender, formal education) as well as context-level factors (such as local unemployment rates). However, we often lack information on individual characteristics for non-respondents, but are able, in the case of multi-stage surveys to use information from earlier participation for later stage non-respondents. This study combines contextual information from the borough level, sampling frame information (e.g. age, gender) and survey data from the IMGES II, conducted as a longitudinal campaign survey during the 2021 German federal election in Duisburg, a Western German metropolis. The two-stage design based on a population registry sample makes it possible to analyse participation in a postal screening wave and a subsequent three-wave CATI survey among natives and three immigrant-origin groups. Preliminary results show that the same sets of target person's individual characteristics and borough-level variables including COVID-19 incidence rates contain different explanations for unit-nonresponse in all survey stages for the sampled origin groups.

Political Solidarities in Novaland: Can we Simulate the Experience of States, Economies and Public Policies in a Virtual Online State?

Achim Goerres, Jakob Kemper, Jan Karem Höhne

T1

Discussant: [Anna Kurella](#)

What if we could experimentally manipulate characteristics of states, economies and policies and estimate their effects on citizens? This study presents evidence from Novaland, a virtual online democracy with characteristics drawn from German and Romanian welfare states (e.g., level of welfare and corruption). The study consists of a text- and image-based online platform where participants are randomly assigned to different experiences (e.g., income, corruption or unemployment), interact with each other and co-create decisions (e.g., elections and donations) that determine the course of Novaland. For this purpose, we recruited participants via social media networks (N = 347) and collected data in November 2022, which was funded by the European Research Council (ERC). Our results are: (1) The Novaland Experience worked technically well with over 300 participants interacting simultaneously. (2) Participants behaved in an internally valid manner, although there were signs of inattentiveness. (3) Volunteers' political ideology was reflected in their Novaland behaviour, whereas socio-demographic characteristics showed no effects. Novaland offers the blueprint for innovative political science research on state characteristics and people's political solidarities.

Submission Tracks

Paper and Presentation Track

To allow for participation with both early- and later-stage research projects, it is optional to submit a paper before the conference for discussion. There are two submission tracks:

- T1** If you want to have your submission discussed, please submit a paper before the conference for discussion **at the latest one week before the annual meeting – hence April 28**. We'll then forward your paper to the discussant(s). We suggest that those who submit a paper also serve as discussants.
- T2** As in the previous years, you are also free to present your proposal without assignment of a discussant. You are free to change your mind – in this case please forward us the paper a week before the conference.

Paper Upload

Please upload your paper at the latest April 28, using the following link and credentials. We'll then assign discussants and share the ownCloud folder.

- <https://owncloud.gwdg.de/index.php/s/zm6NoS1IyBVQaRa>
- Password: goettingen2023

Assigned Discussants

Given our suggestion, we have assigned discussants to the uploaded papers. Please discuss the paper within 5-7 minutes; then we'll still have some time for questions from the audience. Papers can be downloaded using the same link and credentials as given above.

- **Achim Goerres** is assigned to discuss the paper by Anna Kurella and Milena Rapp
- **Denis Cohen** is assigned to discuss the paper by Julia Schulte-Cloos and Veronica Anghel
- **Paul Drecker** is assigned to discuss the paper by Denis Cohen
- **Julia Schulte-Cloos** is assigned to discuss the paper by Paul Drecker
- **Anna Kurella** is assigned to discuss the paper by Achim Goerres, Jakob Kemper and Jan Karem Höhne

Tagungszentrum an der Sternwarte

The **Annual Meeting** will be held at the **Tagungszentrum an der Sternwarte**, a building next to the Historic Observatory. The meeting room is the **Großer Seminarraum**. Eduroam will be available during the conference. The address of the Tagungszentrum is

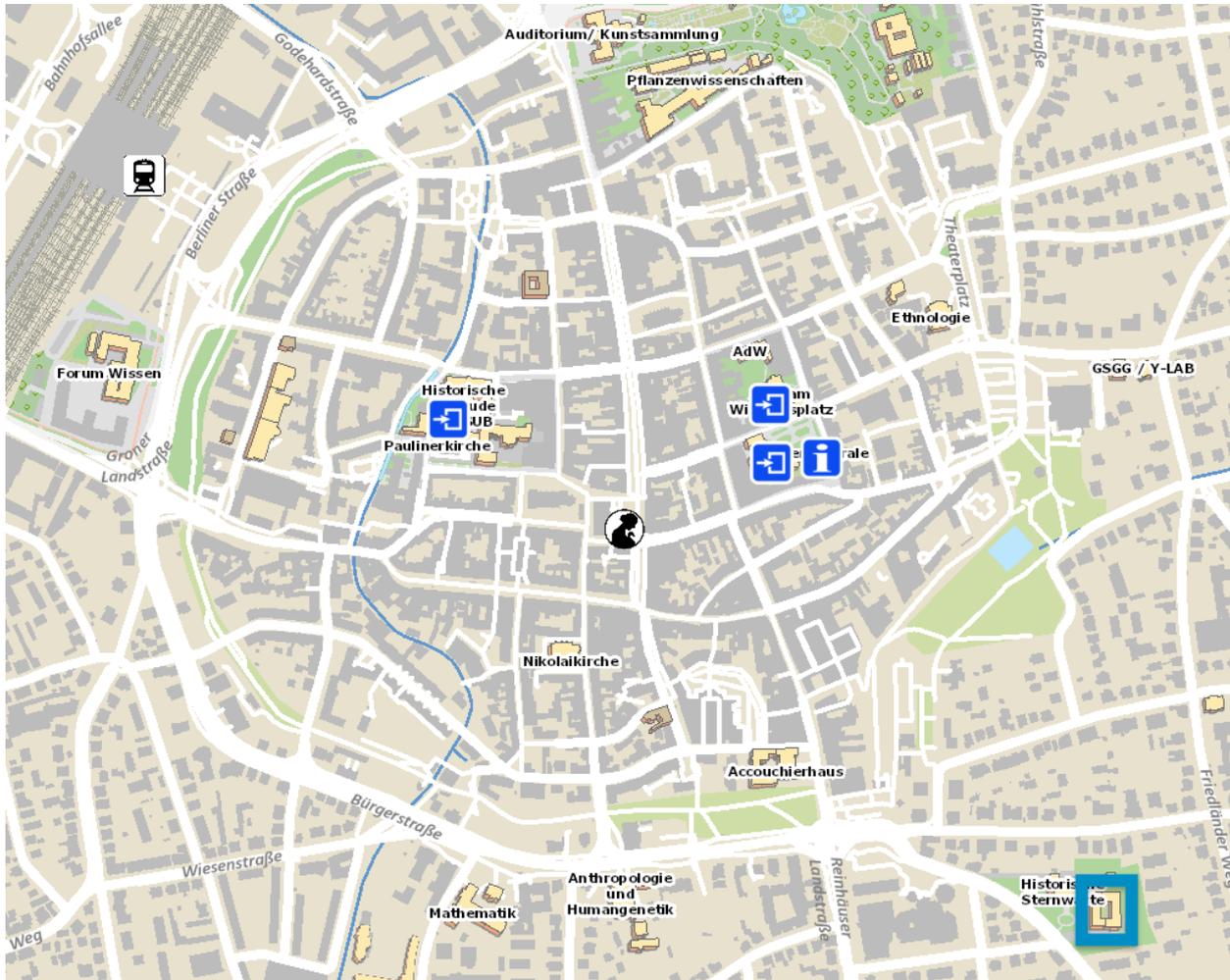
Tagungszentrum an der Sternwarte

Geismar Landstr. 11b

37083 Göttingen

https://lageplan.uni-goettingen.de/?ident=8421_1_EG_0.101

Göttingen has a rather small inner city – so you might want to walk to the Tagungszentrum. It is about a 20 minutes walk from the main station. If you prefer to take a bus, line 21 runs directly from the main station to Hiroshimaplatz/Neues Rathaus. From there, it is only 350 meters to the Tagungszentrum. Please note that some bus lines on Friday are only running on the Saturday schedule.



Conference dinner

The dinner takes place on Friday at 19:30 at the Kartoffelhaus Göttingen, Goetheallee 8. You can choose any menu from the "Kleine Speisekarte" (<https://kartoffelhaus-goettingen.de/index.php/speisen/kleine-speisekarte>) or from the the separate vegetarian/vegan menu. Please note that dinner is on your own expenses.

Friday lunch

We'll be happy to meet you for a quick lunch just before the conference starts on Friday. Just join us at 12:00 at dean & david (<https://deananddavid.com/weenderstrasse-goettingen/>) in the city center and we'll then walk to the Tagungszentrum.

Accommodation

In Göttingen you will find suitable accommodation for every taste and budget. We recommend the following hotels (ordered by distance to the meeting venue):

- Eden Hotel, closest to the meeting venue,
<https://www.eden-hotel.de/>
- B&B Hotel Göttingen-City, nice walk through the city center to the meeting venue,
<https://www.hotel-bb.com/en/hotel/goettingen-city>
- Box Hotel, nothing more than a box to sleep,
<https://www.boxhotel.de/boxhotel-goettingen-city/>
- Park Inn by Radisson Göttingen, bus line 32 runs to the city center; line 61 to the main station,
<https://www.parkinn-hotel-goettingen.de/>
- Hotel Rennschuh, bus line 32 runs to the city center; line 61 to the main station,
<https://www.rennschuh.de/>

Besides the usual booking platforms, you might also want to use the Göttingen Hotel Finder at <https://www.goettingen-tourismus.de/uebernachten/hotel-uebersicht/>. We recommend to book early as some hotels might fill up rather quick.

Organizers

- **Section chairs:** Sabrina Mayer, University of Bamberg (sabrina.mayer@uni-bamberg.de) and Arndt Leininger, University of Chemnitz (arndt.leininger@phil.tu-chemnitz.de)
- **Local organizers:** Julian Dehne, University of Göttingen (julian.dehne@uni-goettingen.de) and Valentin Gold, University of Göttingen (valentin.gold@sowi.uni-goettingen.de)

Credits

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