

Syllabus

Interdisciplinary Research in the Economic and Social Sciences (Bridge Course, PhD)

Spring 2021 (FSS-21)
Course Number: IntRes
ECTS Points: 5
Class Venues: TBA

Instructors:

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This course is exclusively geared towards students who are currently doctoral students at the GESS of the University of Mannheim. It is intended for beginning as well as advanced doctoral students. This course is an elective course and counts as a 'Bridge Course'. Maximum number of participants is 15. If the course is not fully booked, non-GESS students from Business, Economics, or the Social Sciences or from other related disciplines can enroll.

Course Content

This course will introduce student to interdisciplinary research and aims at initiating projects of an interdisciplinary nature, thereby fostering the interdisciplinary spirit of the graduate students at the GESS. This year, the course will be given by one senior researchers from each center of the GESS, i.e., you will have the unique opportunity to receive truly interdisciplinary feedback on your work from three different angles.

The course consists of four core building blocks:

1. Kick-Off & Introductory Session: What is interdisciplinary research.

After a short introduction on the nature and success of interdisciplinary research as well as the structure of the course by the instructors, each participant will shortly (max 5 min, 2-3 slides per person) present the core idea of an interdisciplinary paper published in a top journal in her field. Please browse the recent issues of the most important journals in your field to find such a paper. Note that interdisciplinarity can have various aspects in this context (e.g., methods developed for a specific purpose in one field being used in another context, using a theoretical framework from one area to better understand a research question in another,

using data generated in another context for a research project, ...). Your presentation should make clear, what the interdisciplinary innovation of the paper is.

2. Mini Research Day

The second component of the course is a ‘Mini-Research-Day’ which is intended to introduce the kind of topics you are working on to the other participants. You will give a presentation on a current working paper or research project of yours and you will discuss a paper/presentation from one of your fellow students from another field (10 min presentation, 5 min discussion, 10 min Q&A).

3. Science Speed Dating

The science speed dating event - organized by your student representatives - involves short bilateral talks between participants with the later possibility to match research interests. All course participants will participate in the speed dating event and are asked to develop at least one collaborative research proposal with a student from another field (preferably from our course).

4. Project Presentations & Writeups

This proposal will be presented by groups of 2 (in exceptional cases 3) students in a final meeting about four weeks after the speed dating event. These teams will also prepare a write-up of their proposal (max. 5 pages, incl. References) explaining the intended contribution to the literature, the interdisciplinary aspects of the project and the proposed procedure how to implement the project to be handed in two weeks after the presentation.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will

- have gotten in touch with a variety of disciplinary research methods and perspectives from different fields
- critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these research methods
- identify and develop an interdisciplinary research proposal and communicate their ideas clearly in both, a presentation and in writing.
- have received feedback from senior researchers from all three centers.
- have practiced to present their work to a critical, interdisciplinary audience and to discuss other students work in a format closely resembling that of most academic conferences.

Assessment

This is a Pass/Fail course. To successfully pass the course, each student has to:

- Give a short paper presentation in the introductory session.

- Present, discuss, and participate in the ‘Mini Research Day’. An extended abstract and the set of slides that will be used for the presentation or (preferably) a working paper draft needs to be provided by each presenting student to the assigned discussant 10 days before the research day.
- Participate at the science speed dating event.
- Present your interdisciplinary research proposal (group of two students) and subsequently hand in a write-up
- Full and active participation in all four building blocks is necessary to pass the course.
- The best interdisciplinary proposal will win a price.

Please register by the registration deadline given below, by sending a **title** and an **abstract** of the research project/topic you would like to present during the ‘Mini Research Day’ to **registration@gess.uni-mannheim.de**. Please indicate in your e-mail your **fields of interest** and mention up to three broad other fields (e.g. Marketing, Macroeconomics, Social Psychology) you would like to collaborate with.

Please note that the course is **limited to a maximum of 15 participants**, and seats will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Course dates:

- February 15th, 2021 - Course Registration Deadline
- March 11th, 2021, 12:30pm-3:30pm, Kick-Off Meeting
- April 12th, 2021 - Deadline to send paper to discussant (and in cc: to gess@uni-mannheim.de)
- April 22th, 2021 – Mini Research Day (whole day symposium)
- April 28th 2021, exact time TBA - Science Speed Dating Event
- May 28th, 2021, Presentation of research proposal (half- to full day symposium)
- June 13th, 2021 - Deadline to hand in interdisciplinary research proposal (to: gess@uni-mannheim.de)