



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS · PhD PROGRAM

Supply Chains and Economic Development – Pluralist Perspectives

Aim and Background

The PhD Program: ‘Supply Chains and Economic Development – Pluralist Perspectives’ (PhD Program) aims to understand the processes of economic development through the analysis of global value chains and to show the potential of a pluralistic research approach in economics in the context of multi-faceted crises.

The background of the graduate college is shaped by a fragile regime of global economic development as well as social and ecological status quo in crisis. The challenges of our time require a fundamental change of direction, which may be described as a „Great Transformation“. Pluralist economics understands the economy as an interdependent subsystem embedded in society and the environment. Consequently, social and ecological issues must be included in the economic analysis and not just considered in isolation.

Research Agenda

Global value chains (GVC) are a core element of today’s globalized world. In orthodox economics research programs they are mostly analysed based exclusively on formalistic modelling and aggregated data. The PhD program instead aims at analysing GVC from a more comprehensive perspective including their feedback effects on social systems.

The research focus thus includes qualitative research focusing e. g. on decision-making processes, questions of ownership and responsibility, education and stakeholder engagement. The aim of such investigations is to understand the concrete actions and interpretive patterns of the actors, e. g. within the context of the organization. GVC will thus be analysed in detail, where appropriate, ‘on the spot’ and through the entire development process, including the final customer or consumer.

Acknowledging the necessity of transformation as a normative starting point, a special focus may be laid on progressive concepts. In this sense, production systems that are compatible with growth-critical designs of the economy may be of particular interest as they merge global as well as local supply chains into a more resilient supply chain architecture. Possible approaches may also include reference to best practice and worst practice cases, including the development of criteria for such normative classification.



PLURALIST ECONOMICS



UNIVERSITY OF SIEGEN

Pluralist Research and Program Features

In order to ensure a pluralistic approach, no explicit research question is pre-formulated. The PhD students may focus on a particular aspect of the GVC but may also adopt a systemic perspective.

The pluralistic research agenda is ensured by tackling questions from the perspective of different economic schools as well as varied methods within the graduate school, whilst allowing for individual specialization. Quantitative methods and qualitative methods are valued as equally important and will both be represented in the PhD program.

Pluralistic research emphasizes the fruitful and equitable discourse between different perspectives. Regular exchange is therefore of fundamental importance for the graduate school. In addition to academic discourse with the scientific community, the integration of civil society perspectives into the research agenda is desirable. Most importantly, continuous exchange among the PhD students and with the graduate students of the Master's program is envisaged.

Organizational Details and Application Criteria

- The PhD program is designed for a period of three years.
- The scholarship amounts to 1,500 € per month.
- In total 9-10 scholarships will be granted over the course of 3 semesters. The deadline for the first round of selection is **31 March 2017**.
- Applicants should preferably hold an academic degree in economics or, if appropriate, an expanded social science degree.
- **Applications should be sent to elsa.egerer@uni-siegen.de and include the following documents:**
 - CV
 - letter of motivation
 - 2 to 4 page idea sketch (formulation of the research question, description of research focus, reference to economic school(s) adopted, description and short elaboration on methodology and ontological focus)

Spokesmen of the PhD school: [Gustav Bergmann](#) · [Nils Goldschmidt](#) · [Helge Peukert](#)

For question and enquiries, please contact [Elsa Egerer](#)

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