# MAN 710: Research Seminar Public & Nonprofit Management

*Chair of Public and Nonprofit Management*

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1 Course Description

This course will introduce students to different approaches relevant to planning and implementing research in the fields of public and nonprofit management. Based on a process model for empirical research, students will study how to conduct qualitative and quantitative investigations, and to read and write scientific papers. In addition, they will have to apply this knowledge in an empirical research project. At the end of this course, students will have the skills for doing academic work on their own, and thus, to write a qualitative- and quantitative-empirical master thesis at the Chair of Public and Nonprofit Management.

2 Learning Goals

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- detect research gaps, especially related to own research projects,
- define research goals and research questions,
- search, interpret, evaluate and select academic literature,
- choose appropriate research designs (qualitative and quantitative) for various research questions,
- collect qualitative and quantitative data,
- analyze qualitative and quantitative data,
- write up an empirical research paper.

In this seminar, students will acquire the key competences of doing scientific work (reading, writing, and presenting).

3 Prerequisites

To attend this course, students must have completed at least one of the following courses:

- MAN 617
- MAN 637
- MAN 675
- MAN 679
- MAN 619
- MAN 674
- MAN 676
- MAN 680
4 Organizational Matters

Registration

Please write an email to Benedikt Englert (b.englert@bwl.uni-mannheim.de) until 10 February 2020. and attach the following documents:

- Excel file with preferences for the topics you want to work on
- Students studying in the M.Sc. Program Culture and Business have to personally hand in the form “Antrag auf Übertragung (Export) der Masterarbeitsbetreuung”, signed by Mr. Hempen until 14 February 2020.
Without this form, the registration cannot be processed.

You will receive an acceptance email by 14 February 2020, 1 pm, in which you will be assigned to a topic to work on.

Dates

Monday, 17.02.2020, 08:30–11:45, L 5, 4, room 207 / 209 (library of the chair)

Monday, 24.02.2020, 08:30–11:45, L 5, 4, room 207 / 209 (library of the chair)

Monday, 02.03.2020, 08:30–11:45, L 5, 4, room 207 / 209 (library of the chair)

Monday, 09.03.2020, 08:30–11:45, L 5, 4, room 207 / 209 (library of the chair)

Monday, 16.03.2020, 08:30–11:45, L 5, 4, room 207 / 209 (library of the chair)

Monday, 23.03.2020, 08:30–11:45, L 5, 4, room 207 / 209 (library of the chair)

Examination

Seminar paper – part 1 (due 20 April 2020, 12 pm)
Seminar paper – part 2 (due: 22 June 2020, 12 pm)

Course materials

ILIAS

Credits

6 ECTS (135 hours á 60 minutes)
- Attendance in the seminar = approx. 1 ECTS (22.5 hours)
- Preparation for the seminar = approx. 1 ECTS (22.5 hours)
- Seminar paper (part 1 and 2) = approx. 4 ECTS (90 hours)
5 Contact Details

Lecturer: Dr. Benedikt Englert, Martin Sievert
E-Mail: b.englert@bwl.uni-mannheim.de, sievert@bwl.uni-mannheim.de
Phone: +49 621 181 1723/1512
Office hours: Please make an appointment via email

6 Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre test</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data collection</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar paper (part 1)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar paper (part 2)</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

7 Course Requirements

7.1 General requirements

This course is highly interactive and thus based on critical conversations among students. Discussions will be based on conceptual and empirical academic papers and methods literature. We will critically reflect on research designs and methods and have workshops in which the theoretical knowledge will be applied. Course participants – apart from being interested in the subject per se – should be highly motivated to conduct empirical research. A strong commitment to active participation in discussions in the individual sessions is expected. Even though knowledge of empirical research methods will help to accomplish this seminar, it is not required because the different research designs will be learned from scratch.

To successfully pass the seminar, students have to attend the sessions as scheduled in the syllabus and the “Portal2”. They are allowed to miss two blocks of 90 minutes each. Please indicate your absence via email. Students must not miss the sessions in which the results of their work will be discussed as scheduled.

7.2 Seminar topic

In this year’s research seminar, students will take part in a contemporary research project conducted at the Chair of Public and Nonprofit Management. The research project examines the organizational legitimacy of public organizations in the context of cross-sector collaborations. Cross-sector collaboration has become a prominent tool to tackle difficult societal challenges and to provide various public services. Despite potential benefits, cross-sector collaborations may be problematic for the involved organizations, particularly for public agencies. Social evaluations of organizations may be affected if collaborations are pursued. Specifically, collaborations may challenge organizational legitimacy because audiences may evaluate partnering organizations such as private businesses critically. Students will engage in different research approaches to analyze how the collaboration of public organizations with the private sector affects the external perceptions of citizens. To apply multiple viewpoints and address different research
gaps, both qualitative and quantitative research designs will be applied. In particular, students will have to work on one of the following research topics:

Quantitative Research Questions
- How does collaboration affect perceptions of legitimacy? (Dataset 1)
- How does collaboration affect perceptions of trust? (Dataset 1)
- How does collaboration affect perceptions of pragmatic legitimacy? (Dataset 2)
- How does collaboration affect perceptions of moral legitimacy? (Dataset 2)
- How does collaboration affect perceptions of cognitive legitimacy? (Dataset 2)

Qualitative Research Questions
- How do citizens experience public-private partnerships? (Focus groups)
- In how far is legitimacy important for citizens’ evaluations? (Focus groups)
- How do citizens judge legitimacy in collaborative settings? (Focus groups)
- How do citizens validate legitimacy judgments? (Focus groups)
- How do judgments about different organizations interact? (Focus groups)

Please fill in the excel file “MAN 710_Topics” by indicating a preference for each topic (1: first preference; 10: last preference). Please send the filled-in excel-file to Benedikt Englert (b.englert@bwl.uni-mannheim.de) until 10 February 2020, together with the other documents, as stated in part 4 of the syllabus.

7.3 Examination Requirements

Students will conduct their own research endeavor consisting of either a quantitative or a qualitative empirical seminar paper. In particular, they will have to answer the following overarching research question:

*How does public-private collaboration affect the organizational legitimacy of public administrations?*

*Data collection and pre-test:* The data for the quantitative empirical seminar papers will be provided. All students will collect the data for the qualitative empirical seminar papers through focus groups.

*Seminar paper (part 1):* Students will write a short proposal consisting of an introduction, theoretical background, and methods to be applied (parts 1–3 of an academic paper). Students have to follow the guidelines for academic work, as published on the website of the Chair of Public and Nonprofit Management. Evaluation criteria are (1) formal aspects, (2) content, (3) scientific language, and (4) reasoning. The proposal grade is 25% of the final grade. The proposal is due on 20 April 2020, 12 pm (per upload in the respective ILIAS-folder). The length of the proposal should be between 5 pages (including figures and tables, excluding title page, references). Students will get feedback on their proposal by the lecturer. They are expected to use this feedback to improve their final seminar paper (part 2).

*Seminar paper (part 2):* Based on the written proposal, students have to write-up the results of their empirical work (either quantitative or qualitative) in a comprehensive seminar paper (15 pages including figures and tables, excluding title page, references, appendices).
For this purpose, they have to include the feedback provided on the proposal, refine the methodology section, and add sections on their data analysis, findings, discussion and conclusion. Evaluation criteria are the same as those for seminar paper part 1. Guidelines for scientific work as published on the website of the Chair for Public and Nonprofit Management, must be followed. Deadline for the final paper is 22 June 2020 at 12 pm (one digital copy, one hardcopy). Please do not use any folder and the like. Just tack the paper using filing strips, and hand them in at the secretary of our chair (L 5, 4).

8 References

8.1 Seminar topic

8.2 Quantitative research methods

8.3 Qualitative research methods
# 9 Timetable

Subject to alterations, status: January 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Type of Event</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Qualitative</th>
<th>Quantitative</th>
<th>Performance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 17.02.2020</td>
<td>B1, B2</td>
<td>Chair’s library, L5 4</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Content 1: Research question and conceptual background</td>
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<td>Chair’s library, L5 4</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Content 2: Data collection (quantitative)</td>
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<td>Monday, 02.03.2020</td>
<td>B1, B2</td>
<td>Chair’s library, L5 4</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Content 3: Data collection (qualitative)</td>
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<td>Monday, 02.03. –</td>
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<td>Monday, 09.03.2020</td>
<td>B1, B2</td>
<td>Chair’s library, L5 4</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Content 4: Data analysis (quantitative)</td>
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<td>Monday, 16.03.2020</td>
<td>B1, B2</td>
<td>Chair’s library, L5 4</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Content 5: Data analysis (qualitative)</td>
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<td>Monday, 23.03.2020</td>
<td>B1, B2</td>
<td>Chair’s library, L5 4</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Content 6: Discussion and Reporting</td>
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<td>Monday, 20.04.2020</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>ILIAS</td>
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<td>Deadline seminar paper (Part 1: Conceptual background and methodology; 5 pages)</td>
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<td>X (mandatory) 25 % of grade</td>
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<td>Monday, 27.04.2020</td>
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<td>Office hour</td>
<td>Feedback for seminar paper (Part 1)</td>
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<td>27.04.2020</td>
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<td>Monday, 04.05.2020</td>
<td>B1, B2</td>
<td>Chair’s library, L5 4</td>
<td>Expert round</td>
<td>Discussion of data analysis process (Group 1)</td>
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<td>Monday, 22.06.2020</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Chair (secretary), L5 4</td>
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<td>Deadline seminar paper (Part 1 reworked and part 2; 15 pages)</td>
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<td>X (mandatory) 75 % of grade</td>
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