

Module: MAN 809 – Theory Construction in the Social Sciences

Contents: Mathematical models and formal logic have been gaining ground as tools for theory construction in the social sciences and have arguably become dominant in economics. The vast majority of papers in management and the disciplines of psychology and sociology nevertheless continue to build their arguments verbally. This course exposes students to techniques for how to analyze these verbal theories and how to construct coherent theoretical arguments without the use of a formal language. The course will draw on examples from (technological) innovation management, organization theory, and sociology, but it will not attempt to survey comprehensively any particular substantive topic in those literatures. Students should therefore view the course as a complement to, rather than as a substitute for, subject-based courses. By extension, the course invites students from all disciplines who are interested in complementing their education with a basic exposure to theory construction.

Learning outcomes: In essence, the course provides an opportunity to compose the front section of an academic manuscript and receive constructive feedback.

Prerequisites:

Formal: --

Recommended: Master-level knowledge of seminal theories in students' respective disciplines; research-oriented Master thesis

Obligatory registration: yes

Further Information on the registration:
Website of the CDSB

Courses	Hours per week	Self-study
Lecture	2	6
ECTS in total	6	
Form of assessment	Assignment 40 %, Paper 50 %, Class Participation 10 %	
Preliminary course work		
Lecturer/Person in charge	Prof. Dr. Marc Lerchenmüller	
Duration of module	One semester	
Offering	Fall term 2019	
Language	English	
Learning Goals	LG1; LG3	
Range of application	Doctoral Program, MMBR	