

International Symposium of the Volkswagen Foundation

**Academia in the Age of Comparison.
Methodological and Empirical Perspectives**

12.-14. June 2019,
Conference Center Herrenhausen Palace, Hannover, Germany

Wednesday, 12.06.2019

18:00 Get together, drinks and snacks at LCSS
19:00 Dinner

Thursday, 13.06.2019

09:30-10:00 Coffee and registration

10:00-10:30 Anna Kosmützky, Julian Hamann, Frerk Blome (LCSS, Hannover): *Introduction: Comparing and being Compared. Academia and the Double Role of Comparison*

10:30-11:30 *Introductory panel* with Bernhard Ebbinghaus (Oxford University), Angelika Epple (University of Bielefeld), Merle Hummrich (University of Frankfurt), Tobias Werron (University of Bielefeld): *From Assessment to Quantification - On the Analytical Leverage of "Comparison" as a Term and Concept*

11:30-12:30 David J. Frank (University of California, Irvine): *Keynote: The University in Comparative Perspective: Sameness and Difference*
Moderation: Julian Hamann (LCSS, Hannover)

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:30 *Slot 1: Histories and trajectories of comparison*
Tobias Werron, Leopold Ringel, Jelena Brankovic (University of Bielefeld): *Where do rankings come from? The emergence and institutionalization of rankings in different societal fields*
Angelika Epple, Walter Erhart (University of Bielefeld): *Is There an Age of Comparison? Comparative Practices from Antiquity to Present Times*
Annette Simonis (University of Gießen): *From Comparison of Arts to Comparative Media Studies*
David Kaldewey (University of Bonn): *Comment*
Moderation: Jennifer Dusdal (University of Luxembourg)

15:30-16:00 Coffee

16:00-18:00 *Slot 2: The comparator and the compared*
Ruth Müller (Technical University München): *Bigger, better, faster, more? Narratives of excellence in contemporary academia*
Joe Deville (Lancaster University), Michael Guggenheim (Goldsmiths, University of London): *How to Make Good Comparators*

Justin Powell, Marcelo Marques (University of Luxembourg): From Ratings to Rankings: Research Evaluation and Strategic Organizational Actors

Romy Wöhlert (University of Leipzig): Comment

Moderation: Eva Maria Vögtle (DZHW, Hannover)

18:00-19:30 Poster and Pitche(r)s Session: PhDs and Post-Docs Presentations

Anoud Abusalim (Lancaster University): Disciplinary Writing Practices in Social Sciences and STEM

Aliakbar Akbaritabar (DZHW, Berlin): A spatial scientometric and network analysis of Higher Education Research and Science Studies (HERSS)

Tamara Dagen (University of Zagreb): The impact of globalization on the internationalization of European public universities

Marita McGrory (Europa-Universität Flensburg): How do the international and national students' success rates compare in Germany's Higher Educational Institutions?

Hanne Kvilhaugsvik (University of Bergen): Re-connecting to the labor market? Labor market panels for higher education in Denmark and Norway

Marianne Noel (Université Paris-Est): Three tales of marketization. The role of publication programs in the entry into an era of post-comparison in chemistry

Pedro Pineda (University of Kassel): Studying worldwide diffusion of teaching evaluations through case-centered and variable-centered comparisons

Rahul Putty (Manipal Academy of Higher Education): tba

Moderation: Frerk Blome (LCSS, Hannover)

19:30 Dinner

Friday, 14.06.2019

08:30-09:00 Coffee

09:00-10:00 Bernhard Ebbinghaus (Oxford University). *Keynote:* Are welfare regime typologies an ideal or realistic comparison of and for public policy?

Moderation: Anna Kosmützky (LCSS, Hannover)

10:00-10:30 Coffee

10:30-12:30 *Slot 3: Devices and instruments of comparison*

Michael Sauder (University of Iowa): Rankings as Devices of Comparison

Wolfgang Kaltenbrunner (CWTS, Leiden): Filling in the gaps: The interpretation of CVs in peer review

Martina Franzen (WZB Berlin Social Science Center): Measuring scholarly impact. Altmetrics as devices of comparison in the digital age

Torger Möller (DZHW, Berlin): Comment

Moderation: Tim Seidenschnur (INCHER, Kassel)

12:30-13:30 Lunch

- 13:30-15:30 *Slot 4: Consequences of comparison*
- Richard Watermeyer (University of Bath), Jennifer Chubb (University of Sheffield): REFability and the insidious effects of institutional and individual competitiveness
- Lars Alberth (University of Hannover): Universities between comparability and incomparability
- Frank Meier (Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg): Competition between Higher Education Institutions
- Terhi Nokkala (University of Jyväskylä): Comment
- Moderation:* Stefan Groth (University of Zurich)
- 15:30-15:40 Grab a coffee
- 15:40-17:00 *Final discussion and closing remarks*, with observations from Andrea Mennicken (LSE, London), Mark B. Brown (Sacramento State University) and Marta Natalia Wróblewska (National Centre for Research and Development, Warsaw)

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