

Berlin Young Researchers' Workshop on “The Study of Cooperatives”

Background and Motivation

Worldwide, cooperatives are important players not only in banking and housing. About half of all agrarian enterprises are organised as cooperatives. Recent developments show that cooperatives also play key roles for sustainability and rural innovation. Cooperatives lead the transformation of energy and food systems and provide services of public interest in remote areas. The ways in which cooperatives operate has created growing awareness among scholars of various disciplines. International organizations like the United Nations and the International Co-operative Alliance have emphasized the need for improving research on cooperatives.

The Raiffeisen Chair Economics of Agricultural Cooperatives at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, in partnership with the interdisciplinary Working Group of Institutes for Co-operative Studies (AGI), organize the Berlin Young Researchers' Workshop on “the Study of Cooperatives” that will take place from **27 – 30 March 2017** in Berlin (Germany).



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Organization

The objective of the workshop is to give orientation to early-career social scientists interested in the study of cooperation and cooperative organizations. Our aim is to provide a forum for networking and discussion on methodical strengths and weaknesses for the study of cooperative organizations. Training is offered on innovative methods for the analysis of cooperatives comparative, namely qualitative comparative analysis, stated preferences methods, as well as economic experiments.

Combining theoretical, methodical and research-oriented lectures with exercises and group work, the workshop has an interactive training format with frequent switches between lectures and group work. Tutors will guide participants through all steps of a typical research process from theoretical to methodological considerations, questions of project design and empirical concepts. In an intensive training on selected methods for early-career researchers, participants can develop their own research projects supported by experienced scientists. The workshop is complemented by plenary discussions of the developed research concepts and a training module on publication strategies as well as an overview of relevant journals.

The workshop is open for early-career researchers (PhD students and Post-docs of up to five years after their graduation) who conduct research in the field of producers' and cooperative organizations.

Participants also qualify for attending the Young Researchers' Conference of the AGI, taking place on **31 March and 1 April 2017**, where workshop results and/or research projects can be presented to a broader scientific audience. For further information see:

www.coop-sciences.hu-berlin.de

Methodical Tracks

Three different methodical tracks are offered. Prior to the workshop, participants must indicate interest to one of them.

1. Qualitative Comparative Analysis

Qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) provides a framework for the structured analysis of complex social phenomena and to test theoretical models. It is often seen as a way to allow for a more rigorous analysis for qualitative research approaches. The method aims to uncover causal relationships in configurational data with small or medium sample size.

2. Stated Preferences Methods

Stated preferences methods, especially Discrete Choice Experiments are used to value non-market goods and services by decomposing them into bundles of single attributes. They allow to measure willingness to pay values for these goods as well as for attributes of (cooperative) organizations.

3. Economic Experiments

Experimental economics (Exp) is increasingly used to study socio-economic questions and decision making of actors in controlled environments. By making causal inferences based on treatment designs or by testing observed behavior against economic theories, experiments help to more thoroughly understand the foundations of cooperation and the decision making of individuals within (cooperative) organizations.

Application

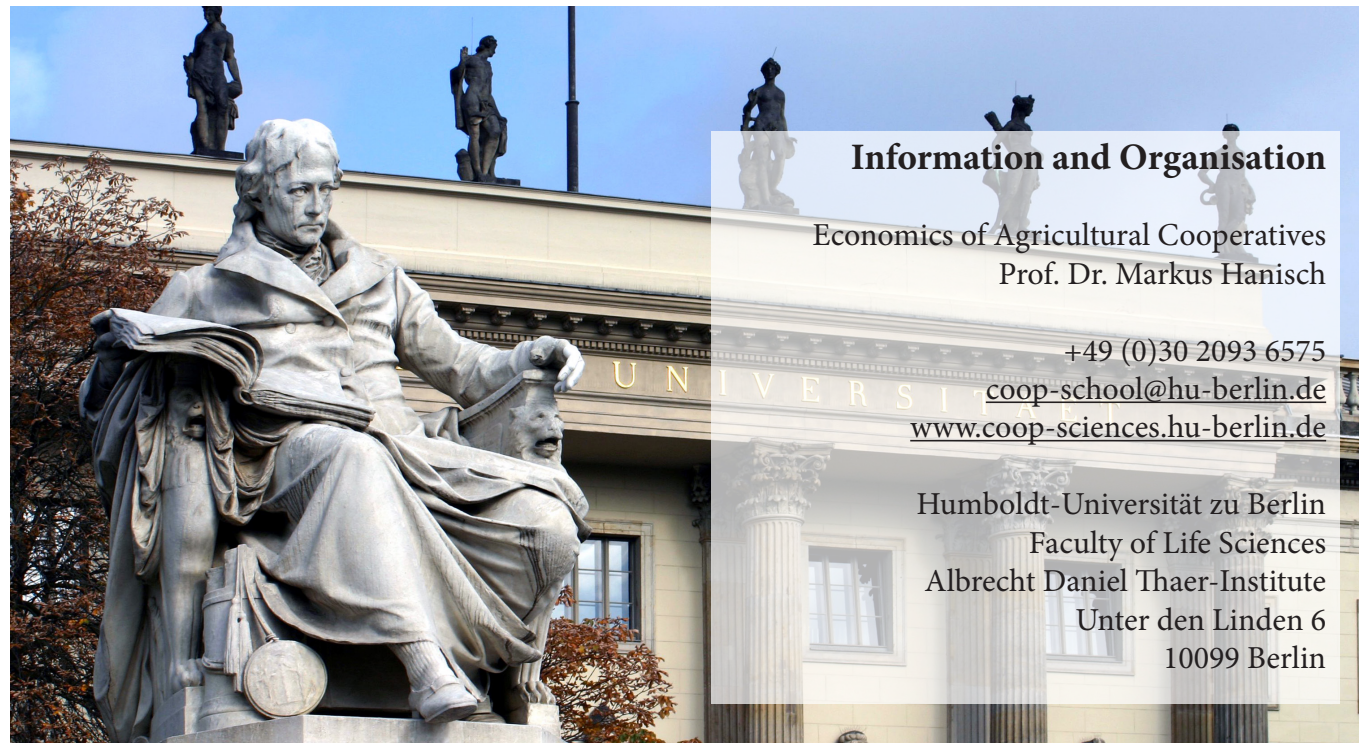
Interested participants apply with a one-page letter of motivation and curriculum vitae. The letter should inform the selection committee about the applicant's expectations and motivations for the workshop and the status of their ongoing research project. Participants will join methodical groups and should indicate a preferred methodical track (check the box on the left side). Send applications with the subject "2017 Coop Workshop" to: coop-school@hu-berlin.de

The workshop costs € 80.00 and includes a conference dinner and snacks and drinks during the coffee breaks. Participants are asked to organize their travel and accommodation individually. The organizers seek to provide scholarships and travel refunds. Information will follow soon. The workshop will take place at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Seminargebäude am Hegelplatz, Dorotheenstraße 24, 10117 Berlin. Further details will be announced shortly before the event.

Deadline for application: 10 January 2017

Notification of acceptance: 15 January 2017

Deadline for registration: 30 January 2017



Preliminary Schedule

Date / Time	Monday, 27 March	Tuesday, 28 March	Wednesday, 29 March	Thursday, 30 March	Friday, 31 March & Saturday, 1 April	
	All participants	All participants	All participants	All participants		
Morning Session 1	<u>Starts at 10:00</u> Introduction and welcome notes (Prof. Markus Hanisch)	Lecture Introduction: Theory of co-ops and the scientific process (Prof. Constantine Iliopoulos, Agricultural University of Athens)	Lecture From desk to the field: Case selection and empirical study design (Prof. Jos Bijman, Wageningen)	Plenum Presentation and discussion of research projects	AGI Young Researchers' Conference at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	
	Coffee Break					
Morning Session 2	All participants	Working groups	Working groups	All participants		
	Introduction Challenges of studying cooperatives (Prof. Markus Hanisch)	Input Mapping methodical developments	Input Challenges of empirical analysis of cooperatives	Lecture & Discussion Journal landscape and publication strategies I		
	Lunch					
Afternoon Session 1	Lecture Testing economic models (Prof. Murray Fulton, University of Saskatchewan)	Workgroup tutorial 1-3 From method to own projects	Group work Develop your own research projects	Lecture & Discussion Journal landscape and publication strategies II		Opportunity to present research projects to the audience
	Coffee Break					
Afternoon Session 2	Flashlights QCA, Stated preferences methods and Economic experiments	Workgroup tutorial 1-3 Develop your own research projects	Presentations of research projects in working groups			
Evening Program	Conference Dinner (included in the conference fee) Venue: tba	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		

