

## **Organisation profile – Institute of Political Science at the Bergische University Wuppertal**

The Institute of Political Science within the Department of Humanities and Cultural Studies at the Bergische University Wuppertal (BUW) is a new institute, established in spring 2008 with two full professors. It has a strong research focus on European Studies and employs 15 scientists and supporting staff. Prof. Dr. Hans Lietzmann, research field European Integration and Political Theory, is since 2007 Jean-Monnet-Professor for Theory and Analysis of European Integration. Furthermore, he is scientific director of the “Institute for European Citizenship Politics” at the BUW. Prof. Dr. Maria Behrens has her research focus on International Political Economy, European Foreign Policy and Transatlantic Relations. She is speaker of the Committee for International Political Economy of the German Political Science Association (DVPW).

The main research of the institute deals with the meaning, function and effects of norms in the process of European Integration and in European Foreign Policy. Thus, it combines Political Theory with European Politics.

The first focus subject, “The political constitution of Europe” asks for problems of implementation of a “constitution” in the political system of European Governance. Therefore, cognitive, normative and structural implications are investigated in the tension between a traditional understanding of a “constitutional state” on the one hand and the developing of a modern neo-constitutionalism on the other hand. This subject has got a funding for three years by the German Research Funding Organisation DFG.

The second focus subject “Power and Norms in European Trade Policy” deals with the theoretical assumption of a transnational competitive state. Attribute of the transnational competitive state is its outward strategy of creating necessary institutional conditions in weaker states, in order to open and ensure foreign markets for its own domestic enterprises (such as protection of investment, public procurement) and also to protect domestic sectors that unable to compete on an international level. While a transnational enterprise, as an economic actor, (re)settles its production facilities to foreign markets, the transnational competitive state, as a political actor, imposes its national norms and regulations on other political systems. The empirical research is concerned with the trade policy of Europe in the multilateral world trade order as well as in bilateral agreements and the spill-over-effects on other policy fields like environmental and labour policy in the political system of the trading partners and its effects on global governance.

The students of the university are strongly participating in these current research projects by student projects and bachelor theses. Since autumn 2009, the institute offers a Bachelor of Science Programme in political science focusing on European research and International Relations. In cooperation with the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (WI), the institute offers in this programme a special module “Environmental Studies”, which enables students to specialise in this field and to get a deeper insight in applied sustainability research. Also in autumn 2009, the master programme “Europäistik” (European Studies) started. This one year programme is carried out in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Welfens, Department of Economics, and Prof. Dr. Knipping, Institute of History at the BUW and delivers students an interdisciplinary view on the process of European Integration.