

Increasingly, demands are made of academics to supply knowledge relevant to political processes and actions. At the same time the public is losing trust in science and demanding research that is sensitive to risks as well as inclined towards applied problem-solving.

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research funds relevant research projects that fall under the heading of the programme *Knowledge for Decision-making Processes (Wissen für Entscheidungsprozesse)* with the aim of showing the multifaceted interplay between politics, science and society. The goal is not only to strengthen advisory competence in social science, but also to formulate strategies for increasing the productivity and credibility of science as well as developing instruments and criteria to maintain standards of scientific assessment. International models of research policy (governance of science) are examined – in particular with regard to possible applications in the context of national approaches to science. Further objectives are the initiation of a discourse within the academic field about conditions and forms of knowledge production, as well as improving communication between academics and the public.

Research projects under the heading of the funding programme consist of four clusters, which were chosen for their relevance:

- **Cluster A:** Changes in knowledge production causes and forms
- **Cluster B:** Communication of scientific knowledge in the forming of opinions regarding policy
- **Cluster C:** Science policy and self-governance of science
- **Cluster D:** Instruments and criteria for quality control in the scientific process

The individual projects work independently but are expected to co-operate within their own cluster as well as across clusters with other projects. The steering group is based at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), and its office administers the individual projects, functions as a coordinator, and calls regular aggregate meetings and discussion forums on pertinent subjects, essentially to strengthen academic research in Germany and to support communication between the academic community and the general public.

At present, the following projects are running:

- Approaches to the development of dialogue-reflexive forms of interface communication between science and politics.
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- Non-knowledge cultures. Analyses of approaches to non-knowledge in the important field of interplay between epistemic cultures and public forces engaged in society-building.
Chair: Dr. Stefan Bösch
Dr. Peter Wehling
Dr. Jens Soentgen
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- Ethical governance? Knowledge, values and political decision-making in Germany, France and Great Britain.
Chair: Prof. Dr. Kathrin Braun
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- Brain exchange – Brain drain? The inter-sectoral mobility of researchers as a problem for science policy.
Chair: Dr. Bernd Beckert
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- Problem-oriented research and the dynamics of science. Example: climate research.
Chair: Prof. Dr. Jost Halfmann
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- The integration of scientific expertise into media-based public discourses (inwedis).
Chair: Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Peters
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- Visualisation in knowledge communication.
Chair: Dr. Martina Heßler
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- The transnationalization of knowledge dissemination and its consequences for the process of political opinion-forming. Example: stem cell research
Chair: Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Wink
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- Expert knowledge, the public, and political decisions. Ethical commissions and public involvement as instruments of political consultation in Germany and Austria.
Chair: Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Schumm
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- The establishment of subsidiaries as a means of crossing frontiers and as a new type of knowledge generation: chances for innovation, risks for scientific quality?
Chair: Dr. Heike Jacobsen
Prof. Andreas Knie
Dr. Dagmar Simon
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- The impact of the evaluation-based research funding at universities on the content of research programmes.
Chair: Prof. Dr. Uwe Schimank
Dr. Jochen Gläser
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- Computerbased Simulation – New Tools of knowledge production. Methods of validation, uncertainty and public mediation.
Chair: Prof. Dr. Sybille Krämer
Dr. Gabriele Gramelsberger
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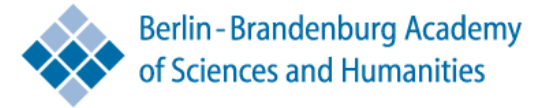
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Prof. Dr. Renate Mayntz, Köln
Prof. Dr. Herfried Münkler, Berlin
Prof. Dr. Friedhelm Neidhardt, Berlin (speaker)
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Wengenroth, München
Prof. Dr. Peter Weingart, Bielefeld (deputy speaker)

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Research program
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