

# MPM Newsletter

Issue #03

## The MPM and the DAAD Helmut-Schmidt-Programme

Since 2009, the DAAD Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (known as Public Policy and Good Governance - PPGG) supports future leaders from Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East as well as from Ukraine. Leaders, who want to promote democracy and social justice in their home countries. The program is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and offers the chance to acquire a Master's degree in programs of particular relevance for the social, political and economic development in the students' countries of origin.

The MPM is part of this program. The Directorate and the MPM Office Team are working hard to maintain the quality of the program, since with the knowledge and experience acquired at the University of Potsdam the DAAD scholarship holders should later contribute to the establishment of democratically oriented economic and social systems aimed at overcoming social differences. The education of the DAAD scholarship holders lies with our responsibility.

On the other hand, our university benefits from the DAAD Helmut-Schmidt-Programme and its contribution to the internationalization.



Our DAAD Welcome Day has become a great tradition – you can see here for [yourself](#)

Currently, we are in the process of accepting applications and we expect 400 of them for a capacity of eight scholarship holders. This is a lot of work!

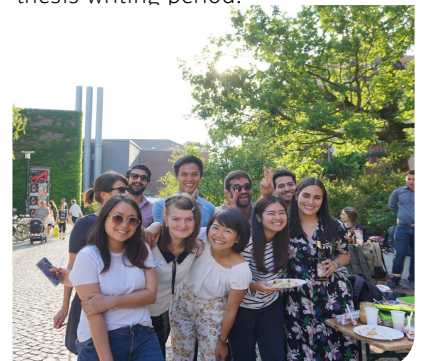
That is why the MPM Office Team expanded for the summer months: Robin Rentrop (see picture on the right) has been joining us since July and his main responsibility will be in assisting us in the assessment process of the applications. After having studied Latin American Studies and Social Sciences in Cologne, Robin went on to pursue his master's degree in Political Science at the University of Potsdam. He chose our institution because of the unique nexus between political actors, academia and practitioners. We agree.

For more information, please click [here](#).

## NEWS

This years' DAAD Helmut-Schmidt-Programme scholarship holders were welcomed with a lovely [BBQ](#).

Our annual DAAD Welcome Day gives our scholarship holders the possibility to meet currently enrolled students and the opportunity to talk about their expectations and aspirations. This event helps our "newbies" to familiarize with the MPM even before the start of their studies and to receive advice from those, who are now in their master thesis-writing period.

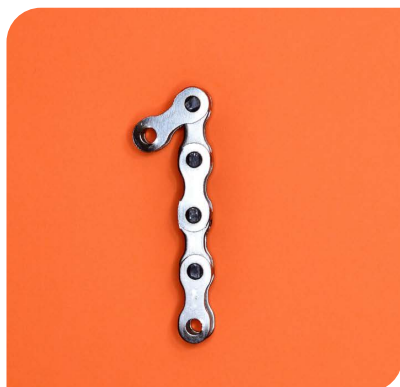


MPM 2017/2018 students met our "soon-to-be"-students at the BBQ

Below: Robin has been a huge help so far



## NUMBER OF THE MONTH



After just 27 years of existence, the University of Potsdam has taken the top spot in the Times Higher Education (THE) U 50 ranking for universities under 50 years of age. The University of Potsdam shot right away to the top 20 universities among 250 ranked institutions from 55 countries, and took the first place in Germany! Internationally we are at 17th place, which makes us very proud! THE ranking for young universities focus on five criteria: teaching, research, citations, knowledge transfer and international reputation.

## LESSONS LEARNT FROM WORLD BANK REFORMS

In addition to the MPM curriculum, which includes compulsory, elective, and supplementary modules, we offer our students a wide range of opportunities to extend their knowledge. Occasionally, we do site visits to institutions with a portfolio that is connected to our study program. This semester, however, we have also organized an additional seminar with Dr. Günter Heidenhof.

Dr. Heidenhof first joined the World Bank in 1998, as a cluster leader for governance, public sector and public finance reforms in a number of African countries. He was based in Madagascar as a Coordinator for governance and institutional development programs in Southern Africa, after he was a governance advisor in the World Bank Office in New Delhi. From 2010 until his retirement in 2017 he served as a manager for public sector and governance in the Africa Department of the World Bank.



Dr. Heidenhof's professional expertise is his main asset when talking about the World Bank. This is why we asked him to hold a seminar that focuses on the role of good governance and institution building in promoting economic growth and pro-poor development from the perspective of the World Bank.

In a one-day-seminar, Dr. Heidenhof provided an overview of the conceptual underpinnings for governance, institutional development, public sector reform and anti-corruption policies.

The participants discussed the role of indicators in assessing and measuring the governance context and performance of countries and looked into the history of institutional and public sector reforms around the world.

Shortly after the seminar, we put the "theory into practice" and met with the Head of Office of the World Bank's Berlin branch – Mr. Rainer Venhgaus.

## NEWS

### Dr. Charlotte Streck to become Honorary Professor

In June, Dr. Charlotte Streck was inaugurated as a honorary professor at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences at the University of Potsdam.

Since 2015, Charlotte Streck has been teaching for the MPM e.g. on Climate Diplomacy, land use, forestry, agriculture and climate change in the framework of our GeoGovernance stream. With her new status, she will be able to supervise more master theses, which is beneficial to our MPM students.

When Dr. Streck is not teaching at the university, she works as a director of [Climate Focus](#). She serves as an advisor to numerous governments and non-profit organizations, private companies, and foundations on legal aspects of climate policy, international negotiations, policy development and implementation. She is also a renowned international expert on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the agricultural and forestry sectors.



Prof. Dr. Maik Heinemann, Dean of the Faculty hands over the inauguration certificate to Dr. Charlotte Streck

## KEEP IN TOUCH

