

**Content:**

The basic design of comparative research is simple: one examines either the same phenomena in different contexts or different phenomena in similar contexts. But what is 'the same'? Is a French socialist party 'the same' as a left-wing political party in Norway? Is a Swedish community agency for social caring 'the same' as a religious social association in Italy because they perform similar tasks? Is collecting financial support for a German club 'the same' as 'fundraising' in Scotland although the last phrase cannot even be translated into German? When, then, is a phenomenon 'the same' in different contexts or is it allowed to speak of 'similar' contexts? The main topics of the seminar are (1) the logic of comparative research, (2) assessing comparability, and (3) establishing equivalence in cross-national and cross-cultural research. Participants are invited to develop equivalent measures for various political orientations (political participation, voluntary activities, norms of citizenship, etc.) by using available cross-national and longitudinal data sets (especially ESS and WVS).

**Credits:**

A total of ten credit points (10 ECTS) can be obtained for a paper (6,500 words), the oral presentation of this paper, as well as active participation during the sessions.