

Information on the final oral examination

General information about the oral examination

1. The oral examination must be taken during the examination week of the IPS in **the fourth semester**. In justified exceptional cases and in agreement with the examiners, the examination may be held at another time.
2. The duration of the examination is **60 minutes**.
3. The examination will be conducted by two examiners. Both examiners must hold a doctorate, one of whom must have completed a habilitation.
4. The content of the examination is chosen from **two of the six IPS sections**.
5. You agree with the examiners on the specific topics and other requirements, such as a thesis paper or a list of references.
6. Note: The topics of the examination and the topic of the Master's thesis must not be identical.
7. The registration **deadline** and the **examination dates** for each semester will be published in good time on the [IPS website](#). Please take note of this.
8. The registration for the examination must be submitted to Mrs Thoma (e-mail: <mailto:L-polwiss@uni-wuerzburg.de>) in due time, stating the examiners and the week of the examination.
9. The dates will be arranged by Mrs Thoma and communicated to you. Please also remember to register for this oral examination via Wuestudy.

Oral exam in Social Science Sustainability Studies

Your topic

If you would like to take your oral examination with me, you should make sure that 1.) a clear connection of your topic to social science sustainability research is recognisable and 2.) academic debate and research is central.

The topic of your oral examination must not be identical to the examination topic of another module, the Master's research project and the topic of your Master's thesis. The topic will be chosen by you and discussed briefly with me in advance.

Preparing a thesis paper

In preparation for the oral examination, you will prepare a thesis paper. You will present your theses, including the selected arguments, authors and literature used, as well as a short introduction on a one-page thesis paper.

You will email this paper to me at least **two days before the examination**.

An exemplary structure of the thesis paper:

Thesis I: Democracy fails in the governance of sustainability in the face of the climate crisis

- The question of an authoritative alternative to democracy
- The question of technocratisation / greater involvement of experts in decision-making processes as an alternative to democracy

Literature:

Beeson, M. (2010). The coming of environmental authoritarianism. *Environmental Politics*, 19(2), 276-294.

Shearman, D. J. C., & Smith, J. W. (2007). *The Climate Change Challenge and the Failure of Democracy*. Greenwood Publishing Group.

Selk, V., Kemmerzell, J., Radtke, J. (2019). In the democracy trap? Problems of the energy transition between expertocracy, participatory governance and populist reaction. In: Radtke, J., Canzler, W., Schreurs, M., Wurster, S. (eds.) *Energiewende in Zeiten des Populismus*. Energy Transformation. Springer VS, Wiesbaden.

Thesis II: The climate crisis requires an expansion of democratic procedures for sustainability governance

- Deliberative approaches to sustainability governance
- Collaborative Approaches to Sustainability Governance
- Polycentric approaches

Literature:

Dryzek, J. S., & Niemeyer, S. (2019). Deliberative democracy and climate governance. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 3(5), Art. 5.

Florini, A., & Pauli, M. (2018). Collaborative governance for the Sustainable Development Goals. *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, 5(3), 583–598.

Jordan, A., Huitema, D., Asselt, H. van, & Forster, J. (2018). *Governing Climate Change: Polycentricity in Action?* Cambridge University Press.

Procedure of the examination

- The exam will last 60 minutes in total, of which you will spend 30 minutes with me.
- I will ask you to give a brief introduction to the topic you have chosen and then we will have a conversation or discussion.
- You will be marked immediately after the exam.

Good luck with your oral exam!

Status: April 2023