# **Modeling Political Decisions for Sustainability**

# Fall 2021/22

# Professor Detlef F. Sprinz, Ph.D.

# **Purpose and Contents**

This seminar will introduce students to the Predictioneer's Game, an applied model of multi-party decision-making. Subsequently, students will apply their modeling skills to specific political decisions on sustainability: remuneration of forest ecosystem services, in particular the negotiations regarding a permanent remuneration for the forest carbon sink function in Germany. While the Predictioneer's Game will be introduced in English, the applied case will require fluency in Germany (reading, audio). All papers will be written in English.

# Learning Goals

#### Knowledge & Understanding

- background on political decision-making in medium-large actor settings,
- understand the core inputs & outputs of a prediction model, and
- German debate and decision-making on remunerating forest ecosystem services.

# Applying, Analyzing & Evaluating

- undertake predictions of multi-actor negotiations for a hitherto unresolved challenge of sustainability policy,
- agree, among students and facilitated by the instructors, on standardized position input scales as relevant to running policy prediction software, and
- research, execute, and evaluate your own simulation model runs.

# Competences

- Students develop their own research strategy amendable to using policy prediction tools, e.g., for subsequent use in their thesis as well as in a corporate or political context, and
- work individually as well as in groups on a diverse set of assignments.

# Logistics

*Time:*  $\rightarrow$  *Course Overview Location:* See "Course Overview" below.

In case circumstances require a switch to Zoom, relevant information will be posted on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle.

- *Prerequisites:* Master, M.A., M.S., or doctoral student status, or special students in Political Science, Public Administration, MAIB, MPM, Business Administration, Economics, and HPI; exceptions at the discretion of the instructor.
- Course Registration: →https://puls.uni-potsdam.de, Course: 430111 (you will be admitted to the waiting list). Students *without* access to PULS send a brief email to Freya Lenk (→Teaching Assistant) and indicate (1) first & last name, (2) email (University of Potsdam email preferred), (3) field and semester of studies, (4) why they cannot access PULS, and (5) why they wish to take this course.

Deadline for Dropping the Course: 10 Nov. 2021

Credit Points: 5/6 or 9/10 (ECTS)

Course website: Moodle →https://moodle2.uni-

potsdam.de/course/view.php?id=29696

Capacity: 20

Contact Details:

detlef.sprinz@uni-potsdam.de (include *"MPD4S Fall 2021"* in the subject line)

www.sprinz.org

Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Mrs. Freya Lenk (freya.lenk@uni-potsdam.de)

# **Practicalities**

This course may require usage of Zoom (if we cannot continue to meet physically) and Moodle for our communication and interaction. In addition, we may use other digital tools. We will use Moodle for contents management (self-enrollment for students with a University of Potsdam account; other students contact the  $\rightarrow$ teaching assistant by email). In case we have to switch to Zoom, please consult  $\rightarrow$ Moodle for relevant information. You will need a laptop with Windows PC to run the software ("Pedictioneer's Game") for predicting negotiation outcomes (provided by the instructor).

In case we use Zoom, you will need a strong internet connection, a microphone, and a camera. Please make sure that your hardware avoids negative audio feedback; the use of headsets circumvents such problems. If you are not actively speaking, please mute your microphone. To preserve bandwidth, please switch off the video function if connectivity is weak, except when making an active contribution. For the latter, please also "raise

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hand" in Zoom ( $\rightarrow$ participants), and "lower" your hand once you have spoken. In case we experience systemic problems with bandwidth (or you individually), please use the call-in (phone) function of Zoom (German call-in numbers at  $\rightarrow$ Moodle if the University of Potsdam continues to subscribe to such services) and access the presentation files on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle. We will also provide a brief guide to Zoom on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle.

# **Code of Conduct**

Given the current health circumstances, please regularly update yourself on and follow the policies in force at the University of Potsdam (→https://www.uni-potsdam.de), the City of Potsdam (→https://www.potsdam.de), the State of Brandenburg (→https://www.brandenburg.de), and (in case you commute to the University of Potsdam from Berlin) the State of Berlin (→https://www.berlin.de). The instructor reserves the right to impose more stringent health policies.

Before entering the classroom, you have to register at  $\rightarrow$  https://unipotsdam.qroniton.eu .

In case we hold a session at PIK – Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, the hygiene concept of PIK will apply, in addition. No exceptions will be accepted.

Any communicable disease, incl. seasonal influenza, is unacceptable in the classroom. Please stay at home and seek professional medical advice.

All students are assumed to be familiar with and will abide by the rules of proper academic conduct as specified by the University of Potsdam (→https://www.uni-potsdam.de/am-up/2011/ambek-2011-01-037-039.pdf, English: →https://www.uni-

potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/studium/docs/03\_studium\_konkret/07\_rec htsgrundlagen/plagiatsrichtlinie\_EN.pdf), and for courses offered jointly with other universities and academic programs, their rules apply in addition. You are required to undertake all your individual assignments independently. For group assignments, resulting products shall be authored exclusively by all group members (with individual components clearly marked). Failure to comply with such rules may lead to the consequences stipulated in  $\rightarrow$  http://www.uni-potsdam.de/am-up/2021/ambek-2021-02-010-012.pdf (German only) (§17).

We expect you to respect the Code of Conduct of the University of Potsdam concerning digital courses (German: →https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/zim/files/UP-

 $Code_of\_Conduct\_Videoaufzeichnungen.pdf; English: \rightarrow https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/zim/files/UP\_Code_of\_Conduct\_videoconference.pdf).$ 

Each written submission in this course shall include page 2 of  $\rightarrow$  https://www.uni-

potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/wisofak/Dateien/Studium/informationen \_f\_r\_studierende\_plagiatssoftware\_april\_2014.pdf (German only; also available on the  $\rightarrow$ Moodle website for this course).

During our seminar sessions, I expect you to concentrate solely on this course, not other activities.

All (personal) information and material that you encounter in conjunction with this course, in the classroom, on  $\rightarrow$ Zoom, or on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle shall be exclusively used for course-related purposes. As we have a range of guest speakers and an issue of current politics as the domain of application, "Chatham House Rules" apply:

"When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed" (https://www.chathamhouse.org/aboutus/chatham-house-rule, last accessed: 13 Oct. 2021).

Violation of the Chatham House Rule will be treated as academic misconduct.

You have to read the EULA (End User License Agreement) of the Predictioneer's Game software, and you accept it automatically when submitting the simulation paper. You also automatically accept all rules of academic conduct for the entire course by submitting your first written assignment, whether this is a paper, written test, quiz, or similar.

Students are expected to attend all sessions. If you fall ill, please inform both the instructor and teaching assistant with as much lead time as possible. In case you cannot submit assignments due to medical reasons, you must submit an appropriate medical certificate. In addition, in case you request accommodations ("Nachteilsausgleich"), please inform the instructors to this effect and provide the necessary documentation until 15 Nov. 2021.

In case observation of religious obligations interferes with academic deadlines, please notify the instructor well ahead of the deadlines.

# **Course Requirements and Grading**

Students are expected to attend *all* classes and read *all* required readings *before* class so as to allow for informed discussions.

This course comprises a portfolio of assignments. Students receiving 5-6 ECTS will undertake the simulation paper and presentation as a *group* assignment; students wishing to receive 9-10 ECTS undertake the simulation paper and presentation as an *individual* assignment. Please inform the  $\rightarrow$ teaching assistant how many ECTS you wish to receive by 15 Nov. 2021 before undertaking the simulation assignment.

Requirements	Weight
Fulfill tasks on Moodle	20%
(Individual) actor paper	20%
(Individual) actor paper presentation	10%
(Group) simulation paper	35%
(Group) simulation paper presentation	15%

# **Course Overview**<sup>1</sup>

Module #	Date & Time	Торіс	Learning goals students	Homework (in advance of the class meetings) & Activities
1	28 Oct. 2021, 8:30- 10:00h, S26	Introduction and Overview of the Seminar	<ul> <li>Understand the goal and topic of the course</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Read detailed syllabus &amp; admission policy</li> <li>Students prepare questions related to course</li> </ul>
2	04 Nov. 2021, 8:30- 10:00h, S21	The Predictioneer's Game: Logic & Overview	<ul> <li>Basic understanding of overall functions and functioning of the Predictioneer's Game</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Familiarize yourself with Moodle</li> <li>Listen to audio introduction by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita (BdM)</li> <li>Readings according to syllabus</li> <li>Prepare questions</li> </ul>
3	04 Nov. 2021, 10:20- 11:50h, S.21	The Predictioneer's Game: Input Data	<ul> <li>Detailed understanding of the input data (conceptual)</li> <li>Corona pandemic policy decision as conceptual example</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Watch a set of videos by BdM</li> <li>Readings according to syllabus</li> </ul>
4	11 Nov. 2021, 8:30- 10:00h, S21	The Predictioneer's Game: Output Data	<ul> <li>Detailed understanding of the output files (conceptual)</li> <li>Interpreting outputs</li> <li>Learn veto rule</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Watch a set of videos from BdM</li> <li>Readings according to syllabus</li> <li>Read centrally provided <i>output</i> files for Module 4</li> </ul>
5	11 Nov. 2021, 10:20- 11:50h, S21	Guest Lecture 1: Prof. Dr. Peter Elsasser (Thünen Institut): Incentivizing Climate Benefits	<ul> <li>Scientific Overview</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Readings according to syllabus</li> <li>Prepare questions</li> </ul>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The schedule is indicative and subject to short-term changes in view of the then current pandemic situation. Check the course site on Moodle for updates and announcements.

		of Forests				
6	18 Nov. 2021, 8:30- 10:00h, S26	The Predictioneer's Game: Running the Software & Topical Background Quiz on the Predictioneer's Game	•	Get Predictioneer's Game running Learn Veto Rule	•	Install Predictioneer's Game prior to class (1 per group) Submit Predictioneer's Game input file to →Moodle Video on Veto Rule Readings according to syllabus In-Class Quiz
7	18 Nov. 2021, 10:20- 11:50h, S26	Guest Lecture 3: Prof. Dr. Max Krott (University of Göttingen): Overview of Actors		Overview of actor constellations	•	Readings according to syllabus Prepare questions
8	02 Dec. 2021, 8:30- 10:00h, S21	Prediction: Developing the Scales	•	Interactive development of the input scales, esp. position scale (& potential influence)	•	Students submit initial ideas on the position/influence scale to →Moodle Readings according to syllabus
9	09 Dec. 2021, 8:30- 10:00h, S21	Workshop: Q&A on Group Projects	•	Presentation Q&A	•	Submit general and project- specific questions →Moodle
10	09 Dec. 2021, 10:20- 11:50h, S21	Guest Lecture 3: Max Freiherr v. Elverfeldt (Familienbetriebe Land und Forst): Forest Owners	•	Perspective of Forest Owners	•	Readings according to syllabus Prepare questions
11	09 Dec. 2021, t.b.d.	DGVF: Politische Verhandlungen (in German)	•	To be announced	•	Outside lecture
12 & 13	16 Dec. 2021, 8:30- 11:50h, S26	Presentation: Individual Actor Papers	•	Presentation Q&A	•	Submission of actor papers and presentation files to →Moodle Watch other student's

				•	presentations & prepare questions for Q&A Submit general and project- specific questions →Moodle
14	13 Jan. 2022, 8:30- 10:30h, S21	Presentation: Group Prediction Papers	•		Submit papers & video presentation to →Moodle
15	13 Jan. 2022, 10:50- 11:50h, S21	Course Review	•		

Additional modules may be scheduled at the discretion of the instructor. Please check announcements on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle for updates.

During the breaks, I may insert material from the activity program of the University of Potsdam:

https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/hochschulsport/specials/studi-pausenexpress

# **Textbook & Readings**

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future. New York: Random House.

All other readings can be found on  $\rightarrow$ *Moodle*.

# Assignments

# All Assignments

Assignments will be posted to  $\rightarrow Moodle$  well ahead of the deadline. Submission deadlines are indicated on the  $\rightarrow Course$  Overview.

Read the instructions carefully! All papers include your student ID number(s), assignment number (see overview), and word count on the first page. At a minimum, leave one inch margins from all four edges of A4-sized sheets. Footnotes shall be kept to a minimum. All text is 1.5-spaced, 11-12 point font (except for tables and graphs due to formatting). Paper length will be strictly enforced (the word count includes literally everything). Papers shall be submitted – in Word (check your word count!) **and** PDF format – via  $\rightarrow$ *Moodle* by the due date and time ( $\rightarrow$ *Assignment*). Extensions will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances, following written petition

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to the instructor.

For proper citation, please consult  $\rightarrow \underline{https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/usingsources}$ .

In case of group assignments, all author ID numbers have to be listed, including a short description who contributed what.

In case you cannot submit assignments due to medical reasons, you must submit a medical doctor's certificate to the instructor.

The allocation of individual students to actor papers and to simulation groups is at the discretion of the instructor.

Assignments will be posted to  $\rightarrow$ *Moodle* and are outlined below.

# Actor and Simulation Papers & Presentations

Actor papers will be up to 1,000 words in length, simulation papers will be up to 2,000 words in length per group member. Details on the paper format and the submission procedure will be provided in the formal assignments. All papers and the presentation videos (if we have to revert to online teaching) are due the day prior to the Q&A session in class. Papers and presentation videos are submitted via  $\rightarrow$ Moodle. Papers have to include student IDs and a brief description who did what (the latter refers only to group papers), the topic, and a word count on the cover page.

We will elaborate the relevant position scale for the prediction paper in class (Module 8), using working groups.

For the actor papers, please provide a brief historical overview of the actor, its central positions over time on the particular issue under investigation, and score the actor with respect to influence, position, salience, flexibility, veto status (as introduced in Modules 2-4, 6). Each of these scores has to be justified and sources fully referenced. Depending on health regulations, the presentation of the actor papers will take place either in person in the classroom or has to be produced as a video; it will be subject to Q&A by your peers (Modules 10-11). A guide how to create a video presentation using MS PowerPoint can be found on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle. You may use the recording function of Zoom or other facilities instead.

For the simulation paper, you will have to determine which actors to include (beyond the actors already covered by actor papers), potentially revise the scores offered in individual actor papers, and devise a strategy for employing the Predictioneer's Game, including robustness checks (variations of the input structure, e.g., on parameters where point values cannot be reasonably or reliably ascertained). Please appendix the input file(s) for the simulations as .txt file(s) and provide full references for all sources.

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Depending on health regulations, the presentation of the simulation papers will take place either in person in the classroom or has to be produced as a video; it will be subject to Q&A by your peers (Module 13). A guide how to create a video presentation using MS PowerPoint can be found on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle. You may use the recording function of Zoom or other facilities instead.

# Modules

# Module 1: Course Overview

Course Overview

# Module 2: The Predictioneer's Game: Logic & Overview

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future.* New York: Random House, ch. 3
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2010. Judging Judgment. *Critical Review* 22 (4):355-388. doi: 10.1080/08913811.2010.541686
- Sprinz, Detlef F., Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Steffen Kallbekken, Frans Stokman, Håkon Sælen, and Robert Thomson. 2016. Predicting Paris: Multi-Method Approaches to Forecast the Outcomes of Global Climate Negotiations. *Politics and Governance* 4 (3):172-187. doi: 10.17645/pag.v4i3.654

# Module 3: The Predictioneer's Game: Input Data

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future.* New York: Random House, ch. 4
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2011. A New Model for Predicting Policy Choices. Conflict Management and Peace Science 28 (1):65-87. doi: 10.1177/0738894210388127

#### Module 4: The Predictioneer's Game: Output Data

Sprinz, Detlef F. and Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2015. Predicting Paris: Forecasting the Outcomes of UNFCCC COP-21 With the Predictioneer's Game. Potsdam and New York City: PIK - Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and New York University, doi: 10.13140/RG.2.1.3722.1840

Read output files for Module 4 ( $\rightarrow$ Moodle).

# Module 5: Guest Lecture: Prof. Dr. Peter Elsasser (Thünen Institut): Incentivizing Climate Benefits of Forests

- Bitter, Andreas W., and Eva E. Neuhoff. 2020. Modell zur Honorierung der CO2-Bindung im Wald. *Holz-Zentralblatt*, 37, 671-672, https://www.fablf.de/fileadmin/introduction/images/Mitgliederbereic h/Service/Politik\_und\_Medien/Modell\_zur\_CO2-Honorierung\_Prof.\_Bitter\_Holz-Zentralblatt\_37\_2020.pdf
- Elsasser, Peter, Margret Köthke, and Matthias Dieter. 2020. *Ein Konzept zur Honorierung der Ökosystemleistung der Wälder.* Thünen Working Paper, No. 152. Braunschweig: Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, https://literatur.thuenen.de/digbib\_extern/dn062599.pdf
- Elsasser, Peter; Joachim Rock, and Sebastian Rüter. 2020. Ein Vergleich unterschiedlicher Vorschläge zur Honorierung der Klimaschutzleistung der Wälder. Thünen Working Paper, No. 151. Braunschweig: Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut,

https://literatur.thuenen.de/digbib\_extern/dn062598.pdf

# Module 6: The Predictioneer's Game: Running the Software & Topical Background

Prepare an input file for the Predictioneer's Game based on

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future.* New York: Random House, 215-226

Download and install the Predictioneer's Game. Install and read all information, incl. "Excel Tools," "Sample Test Sets," "User Guide,", FAQ, and the EULA

#### Read

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. n.d. The Predictioneer's Game© Basic Software Training Manual. Retrieved from The Predictioneer's Game (Software)

# In-Class Quiz

Note: The electronic quiz on Predictioneer's Game in Module 6 can only be accessed after having watched *all* audio and video files provided in preparation of Modules 2, 3 and 4. Please be aware and prepare accordingly in order to avoid any technical issues when the quiz is due during our session.

- Süddeutsche Zeitung. 2021. Zustand der Wälder so schlecht wie seit Jahren nicht mehr. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. 24 Feb. 2021, https://www.sueddeutsche.de/wissen/klima-zustand-der-waelder-soschlecht-wie-seit-jahren-nicht-mehr-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-210224-99-574314
- Zeit Online. 2021. Waldzustandsbericht 2020 Dürre, Stürme und Borkenkäfer schaden den deutschen Wäldern. 24 Feb. 2021, Zeit

*Online*. https://www.zeit.de/wissen/2021-02/waldzustandsbericht-2020-julia-kloeckner-waelder-umweltschutz-klimawandel/komplettansicht

- Schulze, Ernst-Detlef et al. 2021. Klimaschutz mit Wald. *Biologie in unserer Zeit*, 51, 46-54, doi:10.11576/biuz-4103
- Wüstemann, Henry et al. 2017. Synergies and Trade-Offs Between Nature Conservation and Climate Policy: Insights from the "Natural Capital Germany – TEEB DE" Study. *Ecosystem Services*, 24, 187-199, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2017.02.008, esp. 191-193, 196-197

Browse: https://www.fablf.de/themen/wald/

# Module 7: Guest Lecture 2: Prof. Dr. Max Krott (University of Göttingen): Overview of Actors: Waldprämie

Please read the complete collection sources on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle, which may be updated intermittently

# Module 8: Prediction: Developing the Scales

- In-Class Exercise with preparatory Homework Assignment
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future.* New York: Random House, ch. 5.

# Module 9: Workshop: Q&A on Group Projects

Submit general and project-specific questions  $\rightarrow$  Moodle

# Module 10: Guest Lecture 3: Max Freiherr v. Elverfeldt (Familienbetriebe Land und Forst): Forest Owners

- Tänzler, Dennis, and Denis Machnik. 2020. Optionen für die Honorierung der Klimaschutzleistung in Land-und Forstwirtschaft. Optionenpapier im Auftrag der Familienbetriebe Land und Forst. Berlin: Adelphi, https://www.fablf.de/fileadmin/introduction/images/Hauptnavigatio n/Publikationen/Studie/adelphi-Klimaschutzleistung\_Land-\_und\_Forstwirtschaft.pdf
- Wissenschaftlicher Beirat Waldpolitik beim BMEL. ed. 2020. Eckpunkte der Waldstrategie 2050. Stellungnahme des Wissenschaftlichen Beirates Waldpolitik. Berlin: Wissenschaftlicher Beirat Waldpolitik beim BMEL, https://doi.org/10.12767/buel.vi229, <u>https://buel.bmel.de/index.php/buel/article/view/297/492</u>, ch. 1 (pp. 1-10)

Browse: https://www.fablf.de/themen/wald/

#### Module 11: DGVF: Politische Verhandlungen

Details to be announced on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle

#### Modules 12 & 13: Presentation: Individual Actor Papers

Presentations: Individual Actor Papers

#### **Module 14: Presentation: Group Prediction Papers**

Presentation: Group or Individual Prediction Papers

Please read all sources on  $\rightarrow$ Moodle, which may be updated on short notice

#### Module 15: Course Review