



CALL FOR PAPERS

**International scientific conference on “Convergence in a Complex World:
Social, Political and Economic Perspectives” // 20-21 November 2015 //
Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen/ Lake Constance // Deadline for sub-
mission: 31 August 2015 // ppe-conference@zeppelin-university.net**

This year on 20-21 November, a unique international conference will be held at Lake Constance. Students in academic fields such as philosophy, sociology, politics and economics from all over Europe will attend a two day conference at Zeppelin University in Friedrichshafen to deal with the topic of convergence. Convergence – in Latin “to incline towards each other” – is a term firmly embedded in the conference’s relevant scientific perspectives and will raise a lot of interesting questions during the conference. Is there a convergence of values and norms in a global context? The world is getting richer and inequality is growing – how can we explain this contradictory phenomenon? East and West, developing and developed countries – are these dying categories in a converging world?

Besides the academic discourse, there will be a focus on a personal and programme related exchange. How the different programmes are structured, what is their approach towards academic disciplines? What are alumni of PPE/SPE programmes actually doing and which master’s programmes are compatible with the bachelor’s programmes? The conference’s conception will incorporate and carry the core idea of the SPE/PPE academic programmes: to attempt to deal with big questions in a complex and interdependent world without expecting on big, overarching answer.



In hand with interdisciplinary study paths often comes an unsettling multitude of possibilities for one's own future. This year's conference "Convergence in a Complex World: Social, Political and Economic Perspectives", therefore, also aims to show potential future perspectives by facilitating dialogue and fruitful exchange, bringing together alumni and students as well as connecting students of interdisciplinary study paths by building a helpful network.

Graduates of interdisciplinary study paths that are able to look beyond the narrow views of disciplinary problem solving seem to be particularly needed as future decision- and policy-makers in societies that face the complex problems of the 21st century. But clearly future decision and policy making is not merely the task of private businesses, international organizations, NGOs and governments – it also requires universities, science and research.

We believe that an interdisciplinary perspective and approach to research may be at least as helpful to the problems of the 21st century as any of the other fields of work for graduates of interdisciplinary study paths mentioned above.

That is why we dedicated an entire session at the conference to the research of students of interdisciplinary study paths. We want to give students, young scholars and graduates studying for a doctorate the possibility to present and discuss their research with other like-minded students and research enthusiasts.

We welcome any research work from seminar papers, bachelor and master theses to research projects & proposals, which deal with the phenomena of Convergence in its many facets. Check out our panels and apply with your research contribution. We are delighted to hear from you!

You choose a suitable panel for your work and submit an Abstract of 2.000 to 3.000 characters to: 'ppe-conference@zeppelin-university.net' until the 31 August. A student review board, then, selects from all submissions in a so-called "double blind procedure" the contributions that will be presented at this year's conference "Convergence in a Complex World."

If your work should be chosen, you will have the possibility to present your work in a 15-20 minutes presentation and discuss your work with other students after-



wards. Students, whose works are chosen, will earn a free ticket to the conference! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at ppe-conference@zeppelin-university.net

Panels

Macro-Convergence

Can we see a convergence between states or regions, between East and West, between the Global South and the Global North? Is there a convergence of norms and values, of income and wealth, of happiness, of rights, civil society or communication? And what are the consequences thereof? How can we facilitate convergence or is it even desirable?

Micro-Convergence

How does the differentiation of society and further subsystems play out? Can we see a convergence or rather a divergence between different groups, fields, or classes? And how does society deal with these processes and drivers of convergence and divergence?

Methodology of Convergence

What are the pillars of the debate about convergence? What are its implications and its assumptions? Can we dismiss the debate about convergence as an aberration of modernization theory and naïve optimists? Is distinguishing between processes of convergence and divergence the right heuristic to look at phenomena in the 21st century? How do we incorporate teleology and forecasting?