

Name:	Prof. Dr. Lukas Graf
Professor of...	Assistant Professor of Educational Governance

Advisor Information

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Research & Advising Profile:

Lukas Graf is Assistant Professor of [Educational Governance](#) at the Hertie School. His research combines comparative, institutional and organisational approaches to analyse current questions of educational governance and labour markets, as well as of social inequality and change. He is also a member of the Leading House "Governance in Vocational and Professional Education and Training" – an international research cluster on the governance and inclusiveness of skill formation in Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

General Academic Field: What is your academic field, and what are your areas of supervision?

I am Assistant Professor of Educational Governance at the Hertie School since fall 2017. At the nexus of political economy and sociology, my research combines comparative and historical institutional and organizational approaches to analyse current policy and governance challenges, as well as questions of social inequality, in Europe and beyond.

Here are some keywords related to my academic field: political economy, sociology, comparative education, comparative capitalism, welfare states, education and training, labour markets, industrial relations, collective action, comparative analysis, institutions, organizations, institutional change, social inequality, knowledge societies, policy transfer, internationalization, Europeanization and globalization.

Specific Expertise: What is your specific area of expertise, and what topics are you supervising?

I am currently working on research projects in the fields of education, labour markets, and employment relations, among others. You are encouraged to approach these or related topics, for instance, through comparative analysis of two or more (e.g. country) cases and considering multi-actor or multi-level aspects. However, I am also open to other topics and approaches. Here are examples of projects on which I am currently working:

- Institutional change and reform policies in education and training systems
- The European governance model for training and employment
- Governance in multi-actor and multi-level systems of skill formation
- Governing inclusiveness measures in education systems and labour markets
- New forms of governance in the knowledge and service economy
- Stakeholder capacity in education and training in international comparison
- The internationalization and transfer of educational policies

You can find further information on the following websites:

www.hertie-school.org/graf

www.hertie-school.org/en/research/faculty-and-researchers/educational-governance-team

Methodology: What methodologies and methods are you able to supervise?

Case selection, cases studies, qualitative research designs, comparative analysis, institutional analysis, organizational analysis, policy analysis, process analysis, historical analysis, expert interviews, document analysis, among others.

Supervision Style: Please include information on what your advisees can expect from you in terms of supervision format.

The main point of contact is our colloquium. The colloquium adopts a modular approach, meaning that we will cover different key elements of a thesis step-by-step in our colloquium sessions (e.g., thesis proposal, literature review, theoretical framework, hypothesis formulation (if applicable), methods, data collection and empirical analysis). I supervise individual and team projects.

Examples of Previously Supervised Thesis Topics: *(if applicable)*

- Exploring the Strategies of Change Agents in Educational Reform.
- From Competition to Curriculum: Placing the European Universities Initiative in Europeanization Discourse
- The policy transfer process of the German Dual Model to the Mexican Vocational Education System
- A Comparative Case Study of Education Policy to Integrate Students with a Migrant Background at the Supranational, National and Regional Levels of Government
- Being an Employer of Choice for Generation Y – An Analysis of Employer Attractiveness.

- Distribution of Decision-making Power in Higher Education: The German versus the American Model and Lessons for Vietnam.
- Ethiopia's Representation Gap – Strategies to Increase the Collective Bargaining Agreement Coverage of Ethiopian Workers.
- Explaining Civil Society Organizations' Involvement in Regional Educational Landscapes.
- Free Schools: A Study of Policy Borrowing in England and Sweden.
- Institutional Transformation in Corporatist Systems: Analysing the Path Evasion of Vocational Education and Training in Germany.
- The Platform Economy across Welfare State Regimes – Working Conditions of Food Couriers in Sweden, Germany, and the UK.
- Us and them – Mapping Discourse Coalitions in the EU Copyright Directive Debate.
- Inequity in Employment: An Exploratory Case Study on Albania.

Recommended General Readings: (if applicable)

The following texts are general readings material relevant for all advisees:

- Hancké, B. (2009). *Intelligent Research Design*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Marshall, C. & Rossman, G. B. (2011) *Designing Qualitative Research*, Los Angeles, SAGE.
- Creswell, C. W. (2009) *Research Design. Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*, Los Angeles, SAGE.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an infringement of § 11 Good Academic Conduct, 2a: "Infringements of the standards of good academic conduct include for instance to use wordings, ideas or other intellectual work of others in an academic work without clearly indicating the author. The obligation to indicate the authorship of others shall apply irrespective of whether or not the sources used are protected by copyright" (See: Exam Rules, § 11 Good Academic Conduct for more information).

It is vital to keep track of your sources and to cite all material properly.

The Library will offer a session available to all students on resource management and proper citation.

Attendance:

Students receive 8 ECTS for the Master's thesis colloquium. Attendance for supervision—whether in the form of a colloquium or an individual meeting—is compulsory. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in each session, and to adhere to deadlines set for assignments.

In case of an excused absence, students must notify their supervisor. Absence must be compensated with an additional assignment.

Students on an academic exchange programme in the Fall Semester should be given the opportunity of remote supervision.

Participation & Milestones:

The first milestone is the development of a fully-fledged thesis proposal, including a detailed timeline for your thesis project. This proposal will later turn into a key building block for your introduction. Furthermore, the literature review on your topic is essential, as it serves to identify the research gap your thesis will cover. The choice of a fitting theoretical framework, the derivation of hypotheses (if applicable), and achieving a good match of theory, methods, and empirical analysis are examples of

further key milestones in your research and writing process for which the colloquium will provide guidance.

Colloquium & Meeting Information:

	Colloquium Dates	Session Title
Meeting times (suggested)	Session 1: November/December 2020	Discussion of research project ideas
	Session 2: November /December 2020	Discussion of first draft of thesis proposal
	Session 3: Early February 2021	Discussion of elaborated thesis proposal
	Session 4: Mid-February/Beginning March 2021	Remaining three session themes to be determined based on student interest
	Session 5: Late March 2021	
	Session 6: Beginning/Mid-April 2021	

Colloquium Sessions:

Session 1: xx.xx.2020 Discussion of research project ideas	
Aim	We will talk about possible topics of your theses as well as next steps, including the selection of a research design, the writing of a thesis proposal, and the upcoming sessions of our colloquium.
Assignment (e.g. thesis proposal)	Please prepare first ideas of one or more topics you would like to work on in your thesis and how you plan to approach them.
Readings (if applicable)	Any literature that helps you to address the topic you would like to work on and to identify a corresponding research gap. See also recommended general readings.

Session 2: xx.xx.2020 Discussion of first draft of thesis proposal	
Aim	Discussion of first drafts of thesis proposals. Discussion of recommended readings (details to be specified depending on thesis topics chosen), with a focus on research strategies that support you in writing your thesis.
Assignment (e.g. literature review)	First draft of thesis proposal.
Readings (if applicable)	Recommended general readings (selected texts/chapters). Please note that the list of general readings may still be adjusted depending on your research interests.

Session 3: xx.xx.2021 Discussion of elaborated thesis proposal	
Aim	Discussion of elaborated thesis proposals.
Assignment (e.g. empirical findings)	Elaborated version of thesis proposal.
Readings (if applicable)	Reading of the thesis proposals of the other participants of our colloquium and preparation of comments.

****Remaining three session themes to be determined based on student interest.***