



PhD Program in Science & Policy: Evidence-Based Policy Making

Lecturers: Kathrin Frey, Christian Hirschi

Location: Botanical Garden, University of Zurich

Dates: March 7 & April 13, 2016

Credit Points: 2 ECTS

Contact: Dr. Luisa Last (llast@ethz.ch)

This course is offered every 2 years. It consists of two classroom days and 5-6 weeks of individual and group work in between.

Course Overview

The aim of this course is to develop skills and actions to improve the effectiveness of science in informing policy-makers. The lectures will introduce the concepts of environmental governance and evidence-based policy making.

In the case studies you will study and evaluate concrete examples of policy making and how scientific evidence is incorporated.

The second course day is dedicated to presentation and discussion of the case studies. In the concluding roundtable discussion experts from science, policy-making organizations, NGOs and politicians will discuss their ideas of and experiences with evidence-based policy making.

Course Program

Lecture 1: Environmental governance

Environmental problems and policy challenges today

- *What are the most pressing and persistent environmental problems today?*
- *Why are these problems for a society difficult to address?*

Environmental governance: From government to governance in environmental policymaking

- *What are new approaches to address persistent environmental problems?*
- *What does a governance approach in environmental policymaking entail? What distinguishes it from traditional forms of political steering (government)?*
- *What is/could be the contribution of a governance approach in environmental policymaking to better address pressing and persistent environmental problems today and in the future?*

Lecture 2: Evidence-Based Policy Making

What is evidence? What are the different concepts of evidence from scientists and policy-makers? Do policy-makers base their decisions on evidence? What else may influence them?

Group work: Case Studies

Case study work involves literature research, expert interviews and group discussions.

Number of Participants: A maximum of 20 students will be able to enrol in this course.