



Who decides the time?

Politics and policy of daylight saving time and seasonal clock changes.

Tübingen / Munich / Remote · English · Master's thesis · Research internship · Erasmus+ research placement

The question

How do governments decide what time people live by? Debates about daylight saving time bring scientific arguments into contact with economic interests, public preferences and institutional constraints.

The project

Examine the politics of seasonal clock changes through a focused policy study. Trace how evidence and competing values enter decision-making in a defined jurisdiction or comparison, distinguishing policy proposals from decisions that have actually taken effect.

What you will do

- Identify relevant policy documents, public consultations and institutional actors.
- Develop a transparent document analysis or comparative case-study approach.
- Analyse how arguments, interests and responsibilities shape the policy process.

Possible scope

A thesis could investigate one policy process in depth or compare carefully selected cases. A shorter placement could map documents and actors. Political science, public policy or documentary research experience would fit well.

Suitable backgrounds

Political science · Public policy · Sociology · Journalism · Communication

General expectations

You should be able to analyse data in R or Python, use Git and GitHub, and work reproducibly. Independent reading, careful documentation and increasing responsibility are expected. Previous sleep or circadian research experience is not generally required.

Funding

No salary or stipend from the research group unless explicitly stated. Master's theses are generally unpaid. Mention external funding or mobility programmes when applying.

Suggested backgrounds are not formal programme approval. Confirm requirements with your home institution.

How to apply

Send a short motivation, CV, relevant skills, preferred project, dates, format and location. Mention external funding. Contact Prof. Manuel Spitschan using the address below.

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