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To all interested researchers

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Zurich, April 30, 2019

Invitation to the Workshop: “Research on Higher Education and Science in Switzerland”

Dear colleagues

We cordially invite you to our workshop on higher education and science in Switzerland, which will take place in Berne on September 2–3, 2019. By organising this event, we seek to stimulate an exchange of ideas and research results on the subject matters of higher education and science in Switzerland. We hope that this workshop will contribute to the consolidation of the research community in these fields and that it will foster future cooperation among interested researchers. We organize this workshop in the context of a project that is financed by the Centre for Higher Education and Science Studies of the University of Zurich (see enclosed project description).

Through your research you have contributed to the study of higher education and science, which is why we would like to warmly invite you to join us and to participate in our workshop. If you wish to contribute even more actively to our event, we would like to encourage you to respond to our Call for Papers and to give a presentation at the workshop (see enclosure).

In case of any questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact Luca Tratschin. Please let us know until May 31, 2019 if you if you would like to participate in our workshop (by sending an E-Mail to: luca.tratschin@chess.uzh.ch). We would also be grateful if you could inform us about colleagues whose participation in the workshop you would welcome. We will be happy to forward the invitation and the call to these researchers. Once the application deadline has closed, we will announce the final schedule of the workshop. We hope to see you in Berne!

Kind regards

Prof. em. Dr. Otfried Jarren

Dr. phil. Luca Tratschin

Enclosure: Call for Papers, project description



Call for Papers

Workshop: “Research on Higher Education and Science in Switzerland”

In Switzerland, research on higher education and science takes place at many different institutions, places and disciplines. Researchers pursue a wide range of research questions with different aims and interests. In this workshop, we would like to identify the current state of research in this field and discuss potential avenues for future research.

In order to accomplish this goal, we are looking for participants who are working on questions and issues relating to the domain of higher education and science. In this workshop, we would like to put a special emphasis on the current state of the field and future research topics, on the one hand. On the other hand, we would like to discuss ways to strengthen the research community and to consolidate research on the subject matters of higher education and science.

We encourage scholars to suggest contributions (of about 15-20 minutes) which address issues that are topically relevant for this workshop. While we are open to a wide range of topics, we are particularly interested in presentations, which discuss the current state of research and identify possible ways of strengthening the research community. Further issues presentations could address include:

- Presentations on current research projects about higher education and/or science
- Reviews on the current state of research on higher education and/or science
- Attractive and pertinent avenues of further research in the field of Swiss and European Research on higher education and/or science
- Presentation of (national or international) examples that could serve as institutional templates for research on higher education and science in Switzerland
- Assessment of Swiss “opportunity structures” that could facilitate the institutional strengthening of research on higher education and science

The workshop is taking place in Berne on September 2–3, 2019 (presumably Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning). Please send your proposal (200-400 words) to Luca Tratschin (luca.tratschin@chess.uzh.ch) by May 31, 2019. We intend to build on this workshop by developing opportunities for scientific exchange and self-organization that are more permanent.

Prof. Dr. Otfried Jarren & Dr. phil. Luca Tratschin



CHESS Project: “Building a Research Network on Higher Education in Switzerland”

Summary

Aims: Identifying concrete research needs, developing a recommendation for the institutionalization of research on higher education and science in Switzerland

Procedure: Expert interviews, workshops with the participation of the research community

Project team: Prof. em. Dr. Otfried Jarren, Dr. phil. Luca Tratschin

Steering committee: Prof. Dr. Mike Schäfer, Prof. Dr. Lucien Criblez, lic. phil. Bernhard Nievergelt, MPA

Supported by: President of the University of Zurich, Prof. Dr. Michael Hengartner

Duration: January 2019 until December 2020

Contact: luca.tratschin@chess.uzh.ch

Project description

The project aims at identifying concrete needs for research on higher education and science in Switzerland and at developing a recommendation for the institutionalization of this research by the end of 2020. The basis for the identification of concrete research needs are, on the one hand, expert interviews with stakeholders and, on the other hand, insights gained through the exchange with the research community. On this basis, the project intends to stimulate further research and to foster academic collaboration on higher education and science in Switzerland.

The starting point of this project is the observation that research on structures, processes, and challenges of science and higher education in Switzerland is underdeveloped in comparison with other countries. Therefore, there is still potential of optimizing the capacities of self-observation and evidence-based policy in higher education in Switzerland.

Another reason for strengthening research capacities on higher education and science in Switzerland is the fact that they are currently subject to an accelerating change. This change is the result of internal dynamics of science and higher education but also of changing societal expectations towards the sector of research and higher education. This change can be illustrated with the growing internationalisation and specialization of research, with New Public Management in the sector of higher education, with Open Science and with growing considerations of student employability. Because of these changes, we can witness a growing need for orientation.