

Cologne Summer School on Equality of Opportunity
How to achieve fairness and maximize potential in today's world
July 18 - August 5, 2022

Fairness and equality are topics with high societal value in today's world. Societies become more sensitive to inequality and are implementing measures on different levels to try to compensate for unfairness. But how do we define inequality? Is it just about differences in income and wealth distribution, achievement, access to education or other goods? How do we prioritize and handle unfairness to best individual's interest?

We will embark on this academic journey by diving into different disciplines and have workshops and lectures with scholars with economic, sociological, educational, psychological and art and cultures background. The goal of this program is to introduce students to the current research in various academic fields and address the topic of inequality with the discipline-specific methodological lens. We will approach the definitions of (in)equality and the current challenges that every discipline identifies. If for the area of teacher education it could be multiculturalism and its implications for language acquisition in school, economists discuss where to set priorities- on the distribution of wealth world-wide meaning equality of outcome or on raising opportunities in the lower classes (equality of opportunity). The common ground is to be discussed on a interdisciplinary scale.

The learning outcome of the programme is to provide knowledge about scientifically different approaches to (in)equality, contextualisation of the phenomena on a interdisciplinary level and in-depth analysis in the academic fields. Participants will benefit from the opportunity to get acquainted with „non-native“ methods and discuss with international students with various academic backgrounds. Finally, we will debate on the questions what could be discipline-specific definitions of balance between (in)equality and fairness and how can we achieve equality without compromising fairness, individual freedoms and rights.

The program will cover the following subtopics by addressing these questions:

Politics, Economics, Social Sciences, Psychology, Teacher Education, Arts and Culture

- How does your discipline define (in)equality?
- Which are the methods used to identify and test (in)equality?
- What concepts of (in)equality are dominant in your discipline? *For example, economists argue which is more important- to focus on equality of opportunity or on equality of outcome.* -What specific (in)equality challenges do researchers face? Here you can adapt the question to your research expertise and report the results of your studies.

- Based on your research, what actions do you identify as important to be taken (for example on a political level with social policy) in order to raise equality of opportunity?
- And finally, what could be a discipline-specific definition of balance between (in)equality and fairness? How can we achieve equality without compromising fairness from your psychological perspective?