

Citizen Science – Research for and with the general public

Lecturer:

Tim Kiessling, Kiel University

- introductory sessions via zoom, followed by the development and implementation of an own citizen science project prototype with fellow students in small groups
- ECTS-Credits: 3. After successful completion of a module (regular attendance and pass in final examination) you will receive a certificate of participation incl. ECTS. These ECTS can be recognized in the electives section of your curriculum. For confirmation of this recognition please contact your study programme advisor beforehand! You can also take a module as an additional output.
- open for students of all faculties, suitable for ERASMUS/exchange students and for students of the SEA-EU Alliance, for students at Kiel University an in-person participation is possible
- exam: brief report and participation in a final meeting

Application: <https://forms.gle/VoqwrUAFMoJfnCnU8> (if not working, please copy/paste in your browser).

Application Deadline: 1st of October 2023.

All ACCEPTED participants will receive further information after 1st of October 2023. Please check your student E-mail account regularly.

Mandatory first meeting: 19th of October 2023 online (5 to 7 pm)

Further meetings:

- Two additional introductory meetings (online or hybrid for students present at Kiel University). These meetings will take place on the 26th of October (5 to 7 pm) and the 9th of November (5 to 7 pm).
- From mid-November 2023 to the end of January 2024 the citizen science prototypes will be developed and implemented and regular status meetings with the lecturer will take place (online or hybrid), dates will be found individually with each group. No work is expected during winter holidays (approximately from the 22nd of December 2023 to the 7th of January 2024).
- In the first week of February 2024 the exam will take place in the form of a meeting (online or hybrid), the exact date will be found with each group.
- Likewise, in the first week of February 2024 a final meeting will take place (online or hybrid), concluding the course.

For any questions to participate in this seminar, please get in touch with: Tim Kiessling, kiessling@leibniz-ipn.de

Course Content:

Real research is just for scientists – or is it? Science has to open up! And citizen science is one possible way to achieve this. This concept involves the general public (meaning people without a formal scientific education) in research processes. This participative approach does not only allow to answer completely new research questions, but also allows the participants to reflect on the understanding of science and its societal values, and potentially increase their scientific literacy. In this course you will develop a small citizen science project together with fellow students from other SEA-EU universities and Kiel University. During this process you will learn about barriers towards the active engagement of the general public in research processes and explore possible solutions. After drafting a concept, you will implement and conduct the project with members of the general public at your study location (for example with school students), thereby gaining first practical experiences as a citizen science coordinator.

Method of Instruction:

The course starts with initial introductory sessions in online and hybrid format via zoom. This phase conveys a theoretical background about citizen science. During these sessions, students will form small project groups for the subsequent phase. In this phase, each group of students will work on their own, first developing, and later implement a citizen science project – while being guided by the lecturer via regular (online) meetings.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will learn to:

- Reflect on the role of participative research processes for society
- Understand hopes in participate research demands towards citizen science projects
- Develop short-lived, entertaining citizen science projects/prototypes, yet with a solid scientific approach
- Gain first hand practical experience by implementing the developed project with members of the general public
- Present the obtained results and lessons learned from such projects.

Expected number of students: 10 from SEA-EU universities