

## **Bachelor and Master Seminar (7 ECTS) in the Winter Term 2025/26**

### **" Academic Competition across Disciplines and Countries:**

#### **A Look behind the Scenes"**

#### *Empirical Seminar with Survey Data*

##### **Topic**

Have you ever wondered what it is like to pursue an academic career? How much pressure do researchers feel to publish, secure funding, attract talent and how do these experiences differ across countries, disciplines, or career stages?

This seminar offers you the chance to take a look behind the scenes of academic life and explore how science really works as a career. You will investigate how researchers experience pressure and competition in different countries, fields, and career stages.

Researchers face multiple forms of competition in academic work: for reputation (e.g., publications, visibility), for resources (e.g., funding), for talent (e.g., attracting PhD students and collaborators), and for commercialization of research results. These forms of competition are often interconnected and can vary strongly across research fields, national contexts, career stages, and institutional settings. However, there is still little systematic knowledge on how these different forms of competition are perceived across disciplines and countries.

In this seminar, you will work with an extensive survey dataset that captures how researchers in various fields and career stages in Germany and the USA perceive different forms of competition. The dataset enables explorative analyses of field-specific patterns, country differences, and comparisons between researcher groups (e.g., by academic rank). You will develop your own research questions, for example: How do perceptions of competition vary across disciplines? What country-specific differences can be observed between Germany and the USA? Are there systematic differences across career stages or institutional contexts?

*No previous knowledge of programming is required for the data work in the seminar!*

**Objectives:**

The seminar aims to provide an overview of current research on competition in science and to develop students' skills in scientific writing, data analysis, and presentation. Each participant will write a seminar paper, prepare a presentation, and conduct a peer review of another student's work. Active participation in seminar discussions is encouraged.

The seminar is open to both **Bachelor and Master students**. All participants will work on the same core dataset, but **assessment and expectations will be adapted to the academic level**: Bachelor students will be graded according to undergraduate standards, and Master students will be evaluated on a more advanced, graduate level.

**Course Assessment:**

Participants are expected to read relevant literature, analyze the provided survey data, and write a paper that meets academic standards. In addition, each participant will give a 15-minute presentation and a short (5-minute) peer review presentation. The seminar will be held in English. We warmly welcome seminar papers and presentations in English, but German submissions and presentations are also accepted.

**The following components will be graded:**

- Seminar paper (approx. 12 pages)
- Presentation (15 min)
- Peer review presentation (5 min)
- Active participation in discussions

**Application Procedure:**

Students can apply for the seminar from **June 30, 2025, 9:00 am** until **October 12, 2025, 11:59 pm**. Please email your application as **one PDF file** (including a short statement of interest, your CV, your current transcript of records and only for Master students: transcript of record from your Bachelor studies) to: [charlotte.musso@uni-passau.de](mailto:charlotte.musso@uni-passau.de)

*Spots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.*

**Preliminary schedule for the seminar:**

<b>Kick-off Meeting and Introduction to Scientific Writing</b>  <i>14.10.2025</i>	Introduction to the seminar  Presentation of research questions / topics  Participants' indications for topic preferences  Introduction to scientific research and writing
<b>Assignment of Topics</b>  <i>Shortly after kick-off meeting</i>	Participants will receive an email with their seminar topic based on the indicated preferences
<b>Guidance Meeting 1</b>	Discussion of participants' abstracts and tables of content (15 min / participant)
<b>Guidance Meeting 2</b>	Discussion of progress (15 min / participant)
<b>Guidance Meeting 3 (voluntary)</b>	Discussion of progress (15 min / participant)
<b>Introduction to Scientific Presentation</b>	Introduction to presenting scientific papers
<b>Submission of Seminar Papers</b>  <i>One week before the final presentations</i>	Hand in seminar papers
<b>Final Presentations</b>  <i>2-3 weeks before the end of the term</i>	Presentations of seminar papers and peer presentations