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# Information session

Ethics Committee of the  
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences

July 23, 2024



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- 1) Committee and its tasks
  - 2) Application and review process
  - 3) Overview on previous applications
  - 4) FAQs
  - 5) Q&R



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## 1) Committee and its tasks

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## 1.1 Committee members

- Chair
  - Prof. Dr. Tim **Pawlowski** (Sports Science, **WiSo**, Vice Dean for Research)
  
- Vice Chairs
  - Prof. Dr. Benjamin **Nagengast** (HIB, **WiSo**)
  
- Further Members
  - Prof. Dr. Gabriele **Abels** (Political Science, **WiSo**)
  - Dr. Lisa **Bäulke** (HIB, **WiSo**)
  - Dr. Aenne **Brielmann** (HIB, **WiSo**)
  - Dr. Janina **Eberhart** (HIB, **WiSo**)
  - Dr. Rolf **Frankenberger** (Political Science, **WiSo**)
  - AOR Helga **Gese** (German Language and Literature, **PhilFak**, TüSe)
  - Prof. Dr. Annika **Goeze** (Educational Science, **WiSo**)
  - Prof. Dr. Joachim **Grammig** (Economics, **WiSo**)
  - Dr. Jasmin **Joecks** (Economics, **WiSo**)
  - Prof. Dr. Christoph **Randler** (Didactics/Biology, **MatNat**, TüSE)
  - Dr. Malte **Ring** (Economics, **WiSo**)
  - Prof. Dr. Stefan **Schwarzer** (Didactics/Chemistry, **MatNat**, TüSE)
  - Prof. Dr. Rüdiger **Wulf** (Criminology, **JurFak**)



## 1.2 Mission and purpose

- Responsibility and accountability of academic research
  - Right of self-determination of individuals,
  - Damage avoidance principle,
  - Principle of usefulness,
  - Fair distribution of the advantages and disadvantages of academic research
  
- Important aspects
  - Good research practice ([19 DFG Guidelines](#))
    - e.g., within guideline #13: research data/code management: **F**indable, **A**ccessible, **I**nteroperable, **R**eusable
      - [RDM at the University](#)
      - [Digital Humanities Center @ Tübingen](#)
  - Informed consent
  - Voluntary participation
  - Data protection
  - Recommendation (no legally binding) character
  - Not every research project raises ethical concerns

- [Data protection](#) officer of the University (Siegmar Ruff)
- Project managers must grant data protection
- Designation of the respective responsible persons

*“The recommendation by the Ethics Committee is not subject to a comprehensive verification of any concerns related to the data protection law. Moreover, it neither has the purpose nor the objective of relieving any applicant from the necessity to comply with applicable law.”*



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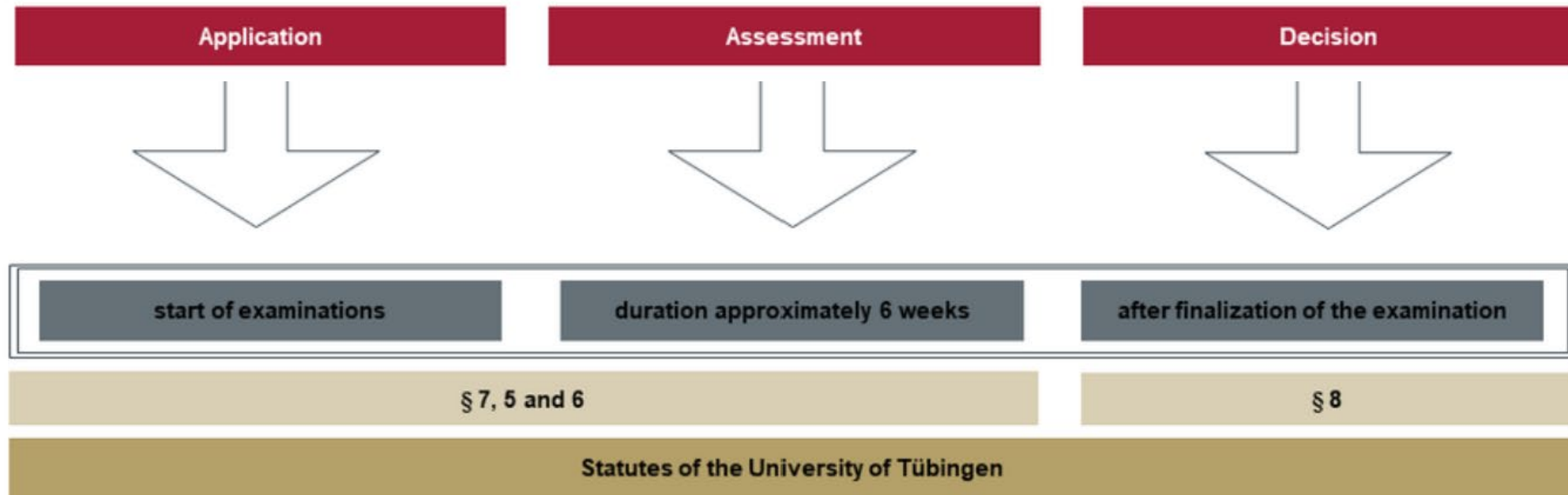


## 2.1 Who may apply

- All professors and scientists holding a PhD
  - from the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
  - from the LEAD Graduate School and Research Network
  - representatives of subject didactics in all faculties whose research relates to empirical social science in areas relevant to education (TüSE).
- PhD candidates may apply via their supervisors, if applicable
- No review of thesis projects (Bachelor / Master)



## 2.2 From application to decision



*Note: Ethics Committee office is closed  
23 August until 8 September 2024!*





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## 2.3 Application form

1. Information on applicant (including a statement about Col)
2. General information on the project (including **start of the project and data collection**)
3. Research design and methodology (e.g., methods used, sampling, remuneration for participants, voluntary participation, informed consent)
4. Anticipated risks and strategies for minimizing them (i.e., emotional stress, physical risks, data-related risks or data storage)
5. Accessibility of research findings



## 2.4 Attachements

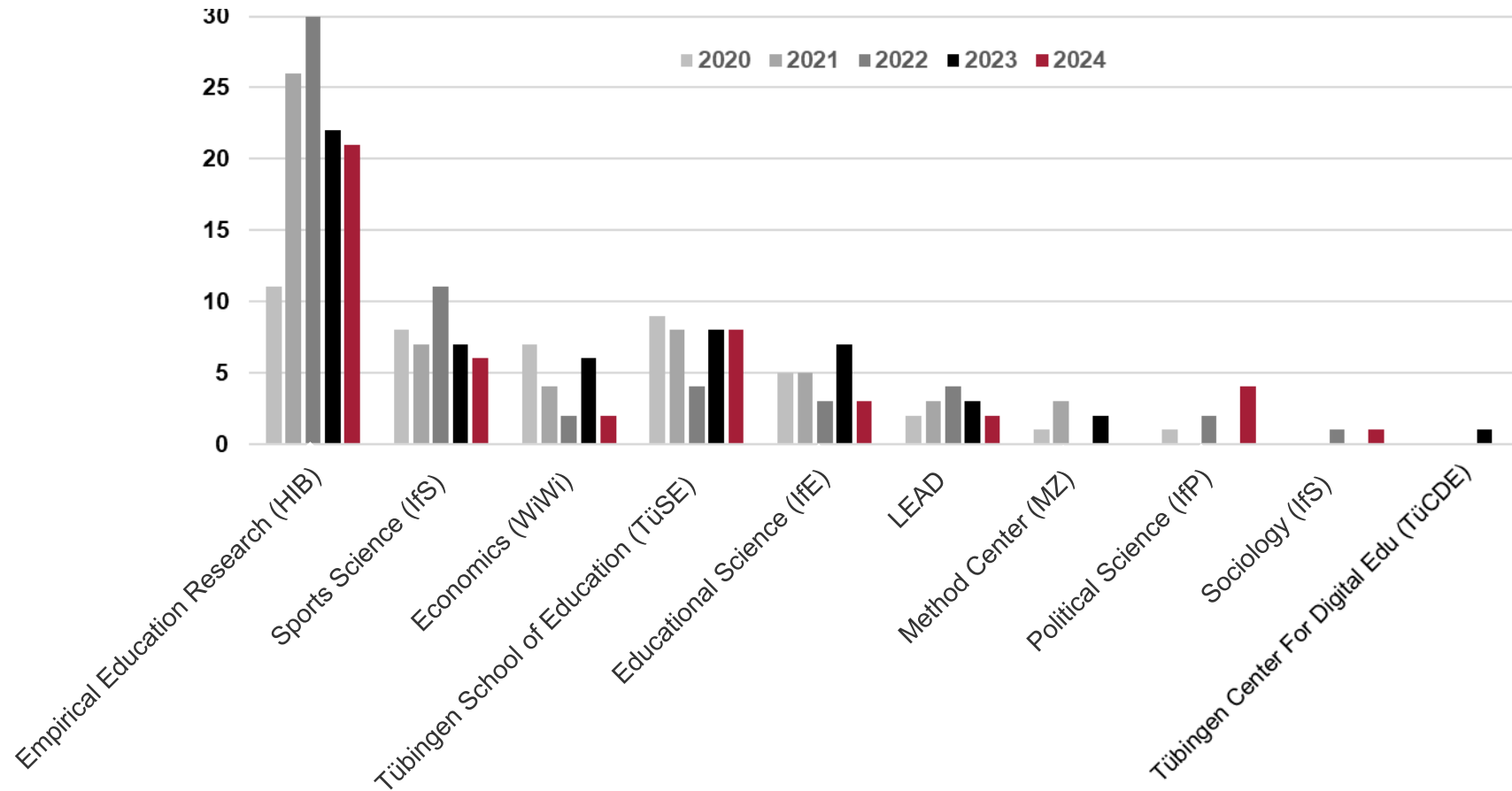


		attached	Not relevant for the planned project
1.	<b>Project outline (required!)</b> (max. 2000 words on the theoretical background, content classification, research goals and hypotheses, and the general methodological design)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.	<b>Survey tools (see 3.1)</b> (e.g. questionnaire, interview guide, pictures, videos etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<b>General information for participants about the investigation (see 3.6)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<b>Participant briefing on data protection</b> (see notes in the download area)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<b>Debriefing text</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	<b>Permission from the institution (see 3.5)</b> (e.g. School <sup>*1</sup> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	<b>Agreement with third parties (see 3.6)</b> (e.g. regarding data collection and storage)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	<b>Declaration of consent (see 3.9)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	<b>Declaration of consent to video and audio recordings (see 3.9)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	<b>Comments on the anonymisation strategies (see 4.5)</b> (differentiate according to data collection, data entry, data preparation, data evaluation, data transfer, publication of results, if necessary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	<b>Confidentiality declaration for project staff</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	<b>Other:</b> Please specify.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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### 3.1 New submissions (as of 23 July 2024)





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## 4.1 Subordinate ethic applications / package applications?

- 1) General background:** recommending (no legally binding) character of votes;  
Not every research project raises ethical questions at all.
- 2) Decision:** no “lab votes”, as even slight variations of research design could already lead to a different overall assessment / recommendation of the part of the Ethics Commission
- 3) Recommendation:** Resubmission of modified old application documents in case of uncertainty (highlight changes).



## 4.2 Review of third-party funding applications

- Some third-party funders (in particular the DFG in the Review Board for Psychology) require a statement by an ethics committee already when the application is submitted.
- In this case it is sufficient to submit the application. Declarations of consent etc. do not have to be prepared/submitted.
- Statement:
  - General vote on the research design as outlined in the application.
  - Obligation: Obtain an opinion on the exact procedures of the study when they are implemented.



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## 4.3 Others

- Short-term and fast-track desires in times of pandemic
- Preliminary inquiries about the need for submission
- Reported modifications of the study designs
- ...





## 4.4 Recurring aspects of the appraisal practice

- Formulations of subject declarations and consent forms
  - Recommendation: Close orientation at templates
    - Homepage of the ethics committee
    - Verbund Forschungsdaten Bildung (German Network of Educational Research Data) ([www.forschungsdaten-bildung.de/publikationsreihen](http://www.forschungsdaten-bildung.de/publikationsreihen))
  
- Data protection
  - Guarantee of subject rights when handling personal data (DSGVO)
  - Pseudonymization vs. anonymization
  - Online surveys
  - Recommendation: In case of complex issues, contact the university's data protection officer in advance



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**Thank you!**