Information session

Ethics Committee of the
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences

July 22, 2025

1) Committee and its tasks

2) Application and review process

3) Overview on previous applications

4) FAQs

5) Q&R

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1.1 Committee members

- Chair
  - Prof. Dr. Tim **Pawlowski** (Sports Science, **WiSo**, Vice Dean for Research)
  - [Prof. Dr. Andreas **Hasenclever** (Policial Science, **WiSo**, 1st Oct 2025 – 31st March 2026]

- Vice Chairs
  - Prof. Dr. Benjamin **Nagengast** (HIB, **WiSo**)

- Further Members
  - Prof. Dr. Gabriele **Abels** (Political Science, **WiSo**)
  - Dr. Lisa **Bäulke** (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)
  - Dr. Jakob **Schwerter** (HIB, **WiSo**)
  - 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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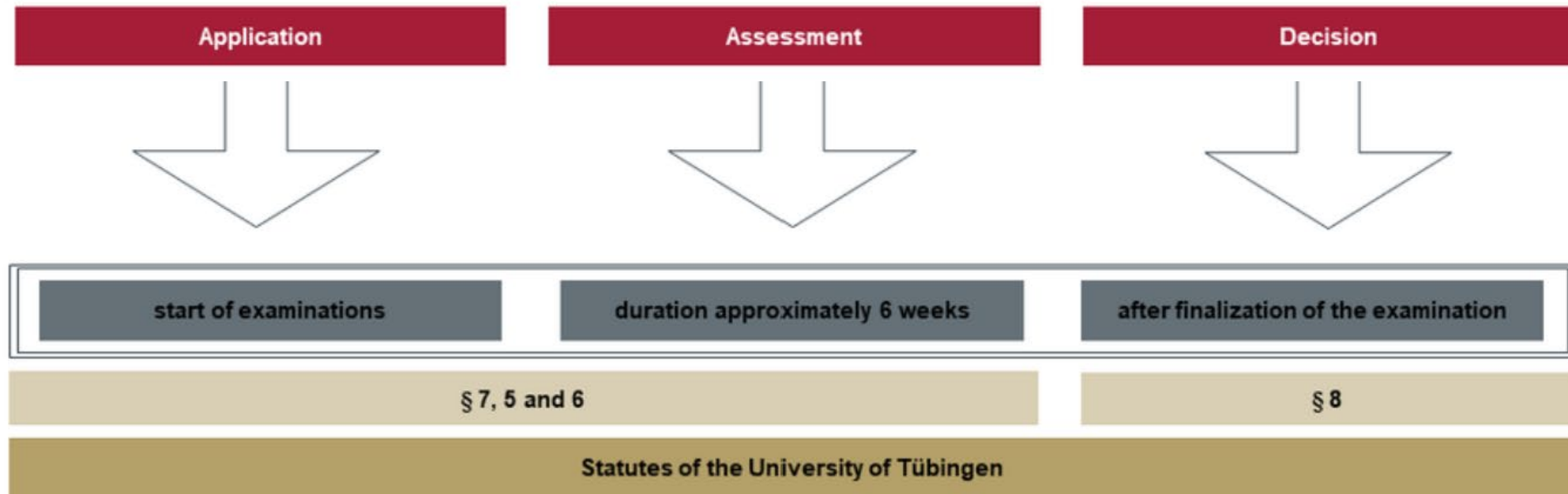3) Overview on previous applications

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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

Application	Assessment	Decision
start of examinations	duration approximately 6 weeks	after finalization of the examination
§ 7, 5 and 6		§ 8

Statutes of the University of Tübingen

Note: Ethics Committee office is closed 20 August until 3 September 2025! Emails and applications can be processed again from September 4th.

2.3 Application form

1. Information on applicant (including a statement about CoI) ➔ Please use the **latest version**!

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)

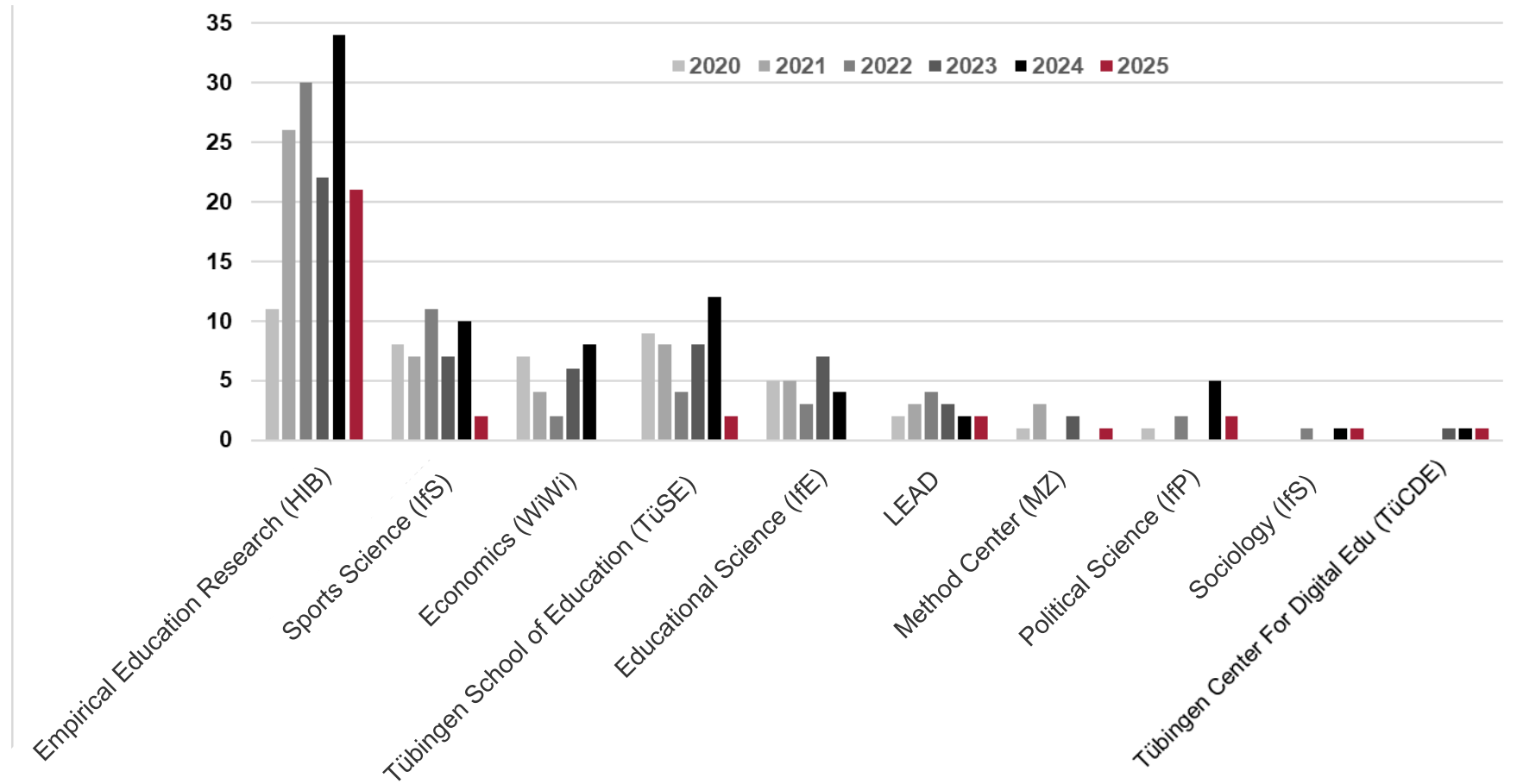5. Accessibility of research findings

2.4 Attachements

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

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3.1 New submissions (as of 22 July 2025)

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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

- It is possible for the WiSo Ethics Committee to take a position on the general ethical acceptability of the goals and procedures of a project outlined in a **DFG application**.

- Following the approach of the Ethics Committee in Psychology, the following choice is possible:

   1) Normal application with all documents according to the form (e.g. participant information, etc.)
   2) Abbreviated ethics application plus final (submitted) DFG application

- In addition to only the core information in the ethics application, the final (submitted) DFG application must be submitted with option 2. It must therefore be clarified in advance with the DFG whether the subsequent submission of an IRB is permissible.

- It is important that the title for the ethics application corresponds with the title of the DFG application.

- Option 2 only grants a conditional IRB and is generally linked to the formal requirement that an ethics committee advises on the details of implementation before the project starts.

- The choice between these two options has no influence on the processing time (usually 6 weeks).

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)

- 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!