

Winter Semester 2021/2022

SDAC Guest Lecture Series

Cultures of Decision-Making: Narratives, Practices, and Resources

Ulrich Pfister
University of Münster
History

Wednesday
02.02.22
6-8pm c.t.



Ulrich Pfister is full professor of Social and Economic History at the University of Münster. Prior to taking up this position in 1996, he obtained PhD and Habilitation degrees at the University of Zurich and held untenured faculty positions at the universities of Constance, Geneva and Zurich. At the University of Münster, he was board trustee (member of the rectorate, 2002–2006) and director of the DFG-funded Collaborative Research Centre “Cultures of decision-making” (2015–2019). His research covers the history of rural areas, industrialization, population, globalization, religion, and long-term economic growth.

This talk is about an anatomy of decision-making as a process, rather than an analysis of the factors governing choices, which constitutes the main object of study in decision sciences. In the first part, Ulrich Pfister will develop a conceptual framework that stresses the practical aspects of decision-making: This is an activity we are doing, in which we deploy our skills with respect to this task as well as social and technical resources that are useful in decision making. He will also show the importance of communication: Narratives of decision making both serve as role models and provide a tool to defend the legitimacy of a choice taken. A conclusion of the first part is that decision-making is anything else than a universally available form of behavior and may be highly variable over time and space. In the second part, Ulrich Pfister will substantiate the claim by characterizing non-modern cultures of decision-making, mainly based on evidence drawn from European history. In the final part he will briefly describe major forces driving changes in cultures of decision-making.

This event will be held via zoom.
Please contact Prof. Dr. Dominik
Müller to register
(dominik.m.mueller@fau.de).



ELITE MASTER'S PROGRAM
Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures