



**GCLab**



Chair of  
Computational  
Economics

**RWTHAACHEN  
UNIVERSITY**



Deutsche Post  
Chair - Optimization of  
Distribution Networks

**RWTHAACHEN  
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## Project Module: Global Challenges Research Seminar (10 CP)

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Prof. Dr. Thomas S. Lontzek, Prof. Dr. Michael Schneider

### 1. Content and Objectives

The seminar is linked to the activities of the newly established Global Challenges Lab (<http://gclab.rwth-aachen.de>). Students are introduced to relevant topics of sustainable development in a global context (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>) and have the possibility to conduct independent and innovative research based on quantitative decision-making techniques. Very strong analytical and methodological skills are a prerequisite for the successful completion of the seminar!

In the first part of the seminar, both lecturers will present their research fields and provide tutorials on academic writing and presentation skills. In the second part, teams of 2-3 students develop a topic and conduct research, typically centered around models of optimal decision-making from economics or prescriptive analytics. The teams are constantly supervised by the lecturers. Students will present their work (20 min. presentation + 10 min. discussion) and write a short paper in the style of a *Science* "Reports" article (<https://www.sciencemag.org/authors/science-information-authors>). Upon successful completion of the Research Seminar, students will have to opportunity to apply to the Honors Program of the GC Lab.

### 2. Seminar Specifics

- Eligibility: MA WiWi, MA BWL, MA WirtIng
- Language: English
- Maximum number of participants: 12

### 3. Seminar Schedule

Before 18.4.:	Students work with a preparatory literature package
18.4., 09:00–14:00:	1. Introduction to Global Challenges, 2. Presentations by the lecturers 3. Writing & presenting academic work
18.4.–20.6.:	Students choose a topic, conduct research and regularly consult with the lecturers
20.6., 9:00–13:00:	Final presentations
After 21.6.:	Students work on their research paper

#### 4. Grade Requirements

- Presentation: time slot for each student: 30 minutes (50% of the final grade)
- Written research paper in the style of a *Science* “Reports” article, see <https://www.sciencemag.org/authors/science-information-authors> (50% of the final grade)

#### 5. Attendance Requirements

There is compulsory attendance at all meetings.

#### 6. Registration

The latest information on the registration process, including deadlines, is expected to be available from the beginning of March on the website:

<http://www.wiwi.rwth-aachen.de/projektmodule>

#### 7. Exam registration

With the system-based allocation (fixed place) for the course of the project module, an automatic examination registration is carried out by the WiWi examination management. Therefore, there is no need for a separate exam registration for students in project modules (exception: replacement place). Please refer to the website ([www.wiwi.rwth-aachen.de/projektmodule](http://www.wiwi.rwth-aachen.de/projektmodule)) for the examination registration process in the event of a subsequent place being granted. Withdrawal after registration is possible in the system.

#### 8. Deregistration / Resignation / Absence / Illness

General rules for all project modules can be found on the website of the Faculty of Business and Economics at <http://www.wiwi.rwth-aachen.de/projektmodule>

#### 9. Topics and Readings

<https://www.globalgoals.org>

#### 10. Contact

##### Module content

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##### Event registration:

Dr. Irina Frei  
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##### Exam registration:

Dr. Sandra Silvertant  
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