

Spring School: Experimental Research on Moral Judgement and (Un)Ethical Behaviour

March 8-12, 2026 - Wittenberg, Germany

The Spring School is part of the Doctoral Academy that is hosted by the WCGE and the Friede Springer Chair of Business Ethics and Management Accounting at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg. It is generously funded by the Karl Schlecht Foundation.

Course Description

Research on morality and business has flourished in recent years, offering both fascinating insights into how individuals and organizations behave and compelling arguments for how they should behave. The breadth of this field brings together diverse disciplines and methodologies – creating exciting opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration but also posing challenges for young researchers who may be unfamiliar with certain empirical approaches.

This Spring School is designed to provide PhD scholars with a foundation in experimental research within normative contexts. Our goal is to equip participants – especially those with little to no empirical training (e.g., ethicists or philosophers) – with practical tools to begin designing and conducting their own experiments. At the same time, we aim to raise awareness among empirically trained researchers (e.g., economists or psychologists) of the unique challenges and ethical considerations that arise when applying empirical methods to normative questions.

Participants will be guided through the process of developing their own research ideas and experimental designs, with an emphasis on how to ask and answer questions with ethical and societal relevance. Beyond study design, the course also emphasizes the translation of findings into practice through collaboration with both academic researchers and practitioners.

Preliminary Schedule (Open to Change)

Sunday (08/03/2026)	
14:00 - 18:00	Arrival and Registration
18:00 - 19:15	Official Kick-Off
19:30 - open end	Joint Dinner

Monday (09/03/2026)	
08:00 - 09:00	Joint Breakfast
09:00 - 10:00	Lecture: Introduction (Philipp Schreck) <i>Clarifying the relevance of empirical</i>

	<i>research for business ethics theories</i>
10:15 - 12:00	Lecture: The Role of Behavioral Research (Agne Kajackaite) <i>Introducing behavioural research</i>
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 16:00	Roundtable: Birds of a Feather? (Agne Kajackaite, Philipp Schreck, and others) <i>Roundtable of different disciplines discussing similarities and differences of Experimental Design</i>
16:00 - 17:00	Research Groups <i>Participants are clarifying the relevance and audience of their research topic</i>
18:30 - open end	Joint Dinner

Tuesday (10/03/2026)	
08:00 - 09:00	Joint Breakfast
09:00 - 12:00	Lecture: The right method for the right question <i>Which questions lend themselves to behavioural investigations? When are lab, field and/or online experiments sensible? Learn to pick and justify your RQ-method fit</i>
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00- 14:55	Research Groups <i>Participants are working on their research questions and hypothesis</i>
15:00 - 17:00	Industry Talk: Behavioral Research in industry <i>Case studies, in which experimental insights are useful in industry problems. Identify why and how these methods are valuable outside of academia</i>
18:30 - open end	Dinner

Wednesday (11/03/2026)	
08:00 - 09:00	Joint Breakfast
09:00 - 12:00	Lecture: Designing Good Experiments (Gari Walkowitz) <i>Translate your research question into a well designed experiment</i>
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:45	Research Groups <i>Participants are working on their experimental designs (including conditions, dependent variables)</i>
16:00 - 17:30	Guided Tour through Wittenberg
18:30 - open end	Dinner & Charles Bar

Thursday (12/03/2026)	
08:00 - 09:00	Joint Breakfast
09:00 - 12:00	Lecture: You've got Data - What now? (Fabio Galeotti) <i>How to obtain and communicate results to different audiences</i>
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 16:00	Research Groups <i>Participants are working on their data analysis strategy and a roadmap for organising their projects</i>
16:00 - 17:00	Farewell

Credits & Examination

The course corresponds to a scope of 6 ECTS/LP. Participants will receive their credits + certification after submitting (and passing) a proposal for an experimental design that addresses a self-chosen research question. More details will be shared during the spring



Karl Schlecht
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WCGE
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school.

Participation without examination (and consequently, without receiving credits) is possible.

Costs & Application

Early-Bird rate (€100) is available for applications submitted by January 16, 2026 (standard fee: €150). We accept **max. 20 participants** and will send out acceptance letters on a rolling basis so our spots may fill out soon!

Apply here: <https://survey.ethicalcloud.de/index.php/544271?lang=en>

More information: <https://www.wcge.org/en/research/doctoral-academy-en>

Contact

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