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Vortrag / Lecture

Andrew Gelman

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**The study of American politics as a window
into understanding uncertainty in science**

Mittwoch, 7. November 2018, 18 Uhr

Hörsaal 3, Sowi, Erdgeschoss
Universitätsstraße 15
A-6020 Innsbruck



Andrew Gelman (Ph.D., Harvard, 1990) is Higgins Professor of Statistics, Professor of Political Science and director of the Applied Statistics Center at Columbia University. He has received the Outstanding Statistical Application award from the American Statistical Association, the award for best article published in the American Political Science Review, and the Council of Presidents of Statistical Societies award for outstanding contributions by a person under the age of forty.

Professor Gelman's research spans a wide range of topics, including: why it is rational to vote; why campaign polls are so variable when elections are so predictable; why redistricting is good for democracy; the probability that one vote will be decisive; seats and votes in Congress; social network structure.

Andrew Gelman

The study of American politics as a window into understanding uncertainty in science

We begin by discussing recent American elections in the context of political polarization, and we consider similarities and differences with European politics. We then discuss statistical challenges in the measurement of public opinion: inference from opinion polls with declining response rates has much in common with challenges in big-data analytics. From here, we move to the recent replication crisis in science, and we argue that Bayesian methods are well suited to resolve some of these problems, if researchers can move away from inappropriate demands for certainty. We illustrate with examples in many different fields of research, our own and others'.