

Doctoral Program "Ethics and Responsible Leadership in Business"

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RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION TOPICS

The research at the Dr. Werner Jackstädt Chair of Economic and Business Ethics focusses on the conceptual development of ethical heuristics (1) which can be philosophically justified, (2) which scientific theories, methods, and findings support and specify, and (3) which are orientated towards problems arising in daily business life. The aim is to develop orientations which promote social cooperation and entrepreneurial value creation.

The most important guiding principle is: invest in trust. Trust is seen as the basis for sustainable social cooperation. It is also necessary for the reasonable solution of deep social conflicts. In this context, the ethical compass (https://www.wcge.org/images/wissenschaft/doktorandenkolleg/dokumente/Suchanek_Ethical_Compass.pdf) is a recently developed heuristic instrument. "Do no harm" is its central principle.

The following topics and questions needs further clarification:

- Different dimensions and aspects of trust.
- Forms of investments in trust and the conditions under which such investments are reasonable.
- Which role do (can) classical ethical concepts play?
- How can economic concepts be made fruitful for such analyses?
- Which role does leadership play in this context?
- Deeper understanding of institutions with regard to the strengthening of mutual expectations of harm omission.
- And much more.

Possible research topics and questions are inter alia:

- Importance and value of focal points supporting a trusting social cooperation.
- What are fair expectations towards companies?
- How do companies invest in trust?
- How can leadership make and promote investments in trust?
- What are systematical obstacles to leadership with integrity?
- How can legitimate harm be distinguished from illegitimate harm?
- Justification, differentiation, and application possibilities of the ethical compass?

Applicants are advised to go by the question „What is the problem of my research?“ while writing their exposé.

Introductory Literature

- Suchanek, A. (2015): Unternehmensethik. In Vertrauen investieren, Tübingen.
- Suchanek, A. (2017): Corporate Responsibility as Avoidance of Relevant Inconsistencies, Radha R. Sharma, Merrill Csur, Kemi Ogunyemi (eds.): Managing for Responsibility: A Textbook for an Alternative Paradigm, New York.
- Suchanek, A. (2018): An Ethical Compass for Good Leadership, https://www.wcge.org/images/wissenschaft/doktorandenkolleg/dokumente/Suchanek_Ethical_Compass.pdf