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WINS Seminar

Date of presentation:  
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**Title of presentation: Compatibility of pre-formal institutions and reform politics in the context of the current socio-economic crisis**

**Abstract**

The financial crisis caused a socio-economic crisis that unsettles pre-formal institutions particularly familiar to societies with dysfunctional bureaucracy. Austerity measures and policy reforms devitalize the institution of political clientelism and derange the institution of familism. In the wake of the crisis, off-the-record markets emerge, while the church is called upon to remedy the situation. The presenter discusses the clash between pre-formal institutions and policy reforms that go hand in hand with the bureaucratization of social interactions. She addresses the relationship between habits and pre-formal institutions as well as the feasibility of environmental politics in societies lacking efficient bureaucracy.

**Short bio**

Maria Proestou is a post-doc researcher at the Department of Agricultural Economics at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and lecturer in environmental politics at HTW Berlin. The focus of her current research is on the bioeconomy discourse. Her research interests are the implications of contemporary political tendencies for the energy transition and the impact of bureaucracy on climate and environmental protection in the light of neoliberal politics.