

Minutes of the General Assembly of the Section “Methods of Political Science” of the German Political Science Association (DVPW)

Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)

5:20 – 6:00 pm

Chair: Theresa Gessler

Minutes: Arndt Leininger

Agenda

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Agenda for today’s meeting
3. Proposed changes to the Section’s electoral regulations
4. Election of the 2025 election committee
5. Proposed statement of support for MEDem
6. Report of the speaker team, including statistics on the Section Meeting 2025
7. Section Meeting 2026
8. Discussion: DAGStat membership of the Section
9. Miscellaneous

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Theresa welcomes the members of the section who unanimously approve last meeting’s minutes, with some abstentions.

2. Agenda for today’s meeting

No amendments to the agenda are proposed. The agenda is unanimously approved.

3. Proposed changes to the Section’s electoral regulations

Denis Cohen presents the proposed amendments to the “Wahlordnung.”

Proposed resolution for agenda point 3:

We propose the following changes to the section’s electoral regulations:

Amending §4 to state that: - the election committee may but need not be appointed at the annual meeting - the three-month period for conducting the election begins upon the appointment of the election committee

Amending §5 to state that: - the nomination period is four weeks from the call for nominations by the election committee

The proposal is unanimously approved.

4. Election of the 2025 election committee

Arndt Leininger, section chair, relinquishes his position, making the election of a new speaker necessary.

Gracia Brückmann and Martin Elff volunteer to form the election committee and carry out the logistics of the next election for the speakership. There are no objections to this appointment.

Kilian Seng nominates Lukas Rudolph for the open speaker options. Lukas Rudolph briefly introduces himself.

Theresa Gessler notes that further nominations are also possible via e-mail to the election committee. The committee will inform all members of the section, including those not present at the assembly, via e-mail.

5. Proposed statement of support for MEDem

Denis Cohen presents the endorsement letter for MEDem, a new research infrastructure for democracy research. Section member Sebastian Ziaja, who works on MEDem at GESIS, briefly presents the project and answers questions from the audience.

MEDem is proposed as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), akin to institutions such as CERN or ESS. It aims to provide a framework for all types of data relevant to democracy research, including centers of competence for survey data, text data, and data linkage. Beyond data provision, MEDem will offer services to the research community. For example, it has already taken over the Partyfacts project to ensure its long-term availability.

Proposed resolution for agenda point 5:

We propose that the section endorses Monitoring Electoral Democracy as a European research infrastructure, following the circulated template.

The proposal is unanimously approved.

6. Report of the speaker team, including statistics on the Section Meeting 2025

Denis Cohen presents statistics on this year's meeting (attached).

Konstantin Bogatyrev asks how quotas were set. Denis Cohen explains that quotas were proportional to submissions. No minimum rating was enforced, but the last accepted paper was still of very good quality.

Gracia Brückmann asks whether Denis Cohen investigated the variance in coder ratings. He reports that he did not. Gracia Brückmann further asks whether one can access their own ratings. The answer is no – individual ratings will not be shared.

Lukas Rudolph asks whether there were messages from rejected participants complaining about the selection procedure. The answer is no; on the contrary, several senior colleagues offered to make room for junior scholars if necessary.

Theresa Gessler proposes making the analysis code public so it can be used by future section chairs.

7. Section Meeting 2026

Dominic Nyhuis has kindly offered to host the next section meeting at Leibniz University in Hannover.

There is no fixed date yet, but one will be communicated soon.

8. Discussion: DAGStat membership of the Section

The section chairs propose the following motion under agenda point 8:

The section “Methods of Political Science” will terminate its status as a member society of the German Statistical Society (DAGStat) at the earliest possible date.

Denis Cohen explains that the section spends most of its money on membership fees in DAGStat without tangible benefits to most members of the section, although the speaker grateful acknowledge the active participation of several section members in DAGStat in past and present.

Lukas Rudolph asks where the membership funding comes from. Denis Cohen is explained that is coming from money from DVPW to support the sections. The methods section spends three quarters of its allotted budget on DAGStat.

Kilian Seng explains that the section joined DAGStat ten years ago. The section pays €1 per member, which currently amounts to roughly 150 members, and this figure has not changed since then. He notes that the conference is expensive: members pay €450, non-members €600. A steering committee meeting is also held, which is open to member organizations.

Markus Kollberg proposes to report the number of attending members to reduce costs.

Theresa Gessler notes that very few section members make use of DAGStat.

Konstantin Bogatyrev proposes reporting the number of voting members instead.

Martin Elff suggests asking the sociological methods section of the DGS how much they pay.

Arndt Leininger proposes that the section could submit a motion to the DVPW Council (Rat) for the DVPW as a whole to join DAGStat.

After deliberation, the assembly votes on whether to take a vote on the tabled proposal. Ten members are in favor of taking a vote, two are against, while several members abstain.

In the final vote, the resolution passes with nine in favor and four against.

9. Miscellaneous

The assembly discusses the format of this year’s conference.

Kilian Seng suggests increasing the time limit for presenters. Nils Weidmann suggests simply setting an overall time limit for panels without assigning dedicated discussants.

After some further deliberation, the assembly takes a non-binding vote to assess opinions on the conference format. Three members are strongly opposed to having discussants, ten are strongly in favor.

Sebastian Ziaja supports having overall time limits for papers so that audience members can switch between panels mid-session.

Gracia Brückmann suggests the need for more distinct labels or symbols to differentiate between paper and presentation tracks.

Arndt Leininger argues against switching between panels mid-session but supports setting an overall time limit for presentations. He notes that if a presenter exceeds their time and eats into the discussion period, that is their responsibility.

Theresa Gessler concludes that section chairs will take all suggestions into account when planning the next meeting. What can be implemented will also depend on the time and space available next year.

No other topic are brought forward and Theressa Gessler ends the meeting, thanking all members for their attendance.

DVPW Section

“Methods of Political Science”

Members' Meeting – March 27, 2025

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting (Bamberg, April 26)



https://www.dvpw.de/fileadmin/user_upload/sek_methoden/protokoll_2024-04-26.pdf

Agenda for today's meeting

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Proposed changes to the Section's electoral regulations

Current version of the Section's electoral regulations

§4 „[...] Für die Durchführung der Wahl wird auf der jeweiligen Jahrestagung der Sektion ein zweiköpfiger Wahlausschuss ernannt. Der Ausschuss muss die Wahlen innerhalb von drei Monaten durchführen. [...]“

§4 "[...] To conduct the election, a two-person election committee shall be appointed at the respective annual meeting of the section. The committee must carry out the election within three months. [...]"

§5 „Kandidierende können auf der Jahrestagung der Sektion unmittelbar nach Ernennung des Wahlausschusses nominiert werden oder innerhalb einer Frist von vier Wochen. [...]“

§5 "Candidates may be nominated at the section's annual meeting immediately after the election committee has been appointed or within a period of four weeks. [...]"

Proposed changes to the Section's electoral regulations

The current wording does not consider cases where:

- no election committee is appointed at the annual members' meeting (e.g., last year)
- a new speaker must be elected unexpectedly, halfway between two annual meetings

Therefore, we propose:

- amending §4 to state that:
 - the election committee may but need not be appointed at the annual meeting
 - the three-month period for conducting the election begins upon the appointment of the election committee
- Amending §5 to state that:
 - that the nomination period is four weeks from the call for nominations by the election committee

Proposed changes to the Section's electoral regulations

4. Die Mitglieder der Sektion wählen Sprecher:innen elektronisch per E-Mail oder Online-Umfrage. Für die Durchführung der Wahl wird ~~auf der jeweiligen Jahrestagung der Sektion~~ ein zweiköpfiger Wahlausschuss ernannt. Der Ausschuss muss die Wahlen innerhalb von drei Monaten **ab Ernennung** durchführen. Der Wahlausschuss informiert unmittelbar nach Ablauf der Nominierungsfrist alle Mitglieder der Sektion über ihre Stimmzahl und die Liste der Kandidierenden. Ab diesem Zeitpunkt können die Mitglieder ihre Entscheidung bezüglich der Stimmabgabe dem Wahlausschuss per E-Mail oder einer dafür eingerichteten Online-Umfrage mitteilen. Der Wahlausschuss entscheidet, in welcher Form eine Stimmabgabe erfolgen kann und informiert darüber die stimmberechtigten Mitglieder.

5. Kandidierende können ~~auf der Jahrestagung der Sektion unmittelbar nach Ernennung des Wahlausschusses nominiert werden oder innerhalb einer Frist von vier Wochen~~ **innerhalb einer Frist von vier Wochen ab dem über den Sektionsverteiler versendeten Aufruf des Wahlausschusses nominiert werden**. Ein:e Kandidierende:r gilt als nominiert, wenn er oder sie von mindestens einem Mitglied der Sektion vorgeschlagen wurde und die Bereitschaft zur Kandidatur erklärt hat. Nominierungen, ~~die nach der Jahrestagung stattfinden~~, sind dem Wahlausschuss schriftlich mitzuteilen. Die Sprecher:innen der Sektion geben den nominierten Kandidierenden über den Emailverteiler die Möglichkeit, sich den Mitgliedern der Sektion vorzustellen.

Election of the 2025 election committee

Election of the 2025 election committee

- Arndt Leininger will step down from his position as Section co-speaker
- We thus need to select a two-person election committee to organize and conduct the election for his succession
- The election itself will be held online as usual

Statement of support for MEDem

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The MEDem MISSION

Monitoring Electoral Democracy (MEDem) aspires to be added to the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures' Roadmap 2024-2025 and become the dedicated European Research Infrastructure for Democracy Research that will serve as a catalyst for comprehensive, impactful, and innovative comparative research on democracies. MEDem will leverage the power of interconnected and harmonized data, unlocking vast amounts of research data in the Social Sciences and Humanities and ensuring their interoperability. By harnessing this networked approach, MEDem will enable ground-breaking discoveries in Democracy Research that surpass the limitations of individual research groups or projects that are often restricted in resources.

Personal
endorsements



Institutional
endorsements



Support Letter

Monitoring Electoral Democracy (MEDem)

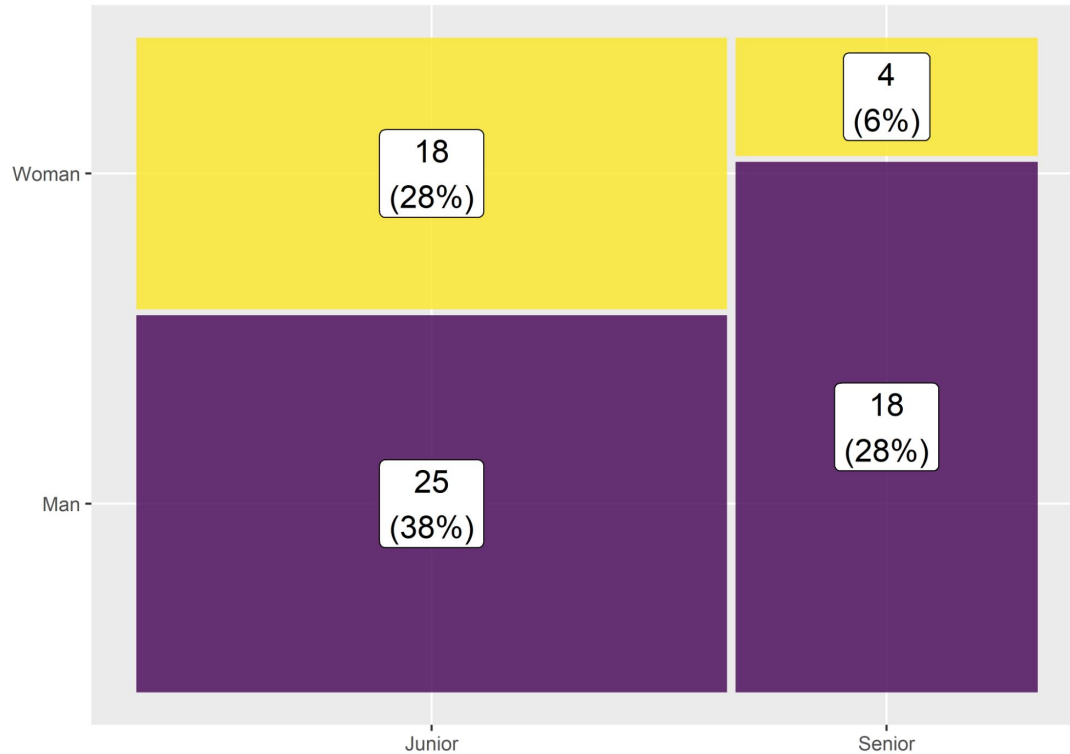
With this letter, the Section "Methods of Political Science" of the German Political Science Association endorses the mission of MEDem and supports its inclusion in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap, thereby recognizing MEDem as a crucial infrastructure towards advancing research excellence, collaboration, and the study of democratic systems. We recognize the importance of this infrastructure, its potential to foster international collaboration and to further strengthen the European research and infrastructure landscape. We believe that MEDem will play an invaluable role in advancing Democracy Research, fostering a comprehensive understanding democratic processes and institutions, and promoting the principles of Open Science, FAIR data, and data-driven research.

Section Meeting 2025: Statistics

CfA and submissions

- CfA advertised nationally and internationally, incl. MZES Travel Grants
- Strong increase in submissions
2023: 18 → 2024: 30 → 2025: 65
- Stark increase in international applications (from outside D-A-CH)
2023: 0 → 2024: 1 → 2025: 19
- Highest number of (confirmed) acceptances:
2023: 14 (78%) → 2024: 15 (50%) → 2025: 40 (62%)

Submissions



Rating and selection procedure

- All submissions were blinded and independently rated by all five organizers
- Prior to de-blinding, we knew the marginal distributions of three characteristics – gender, juniority/seniority, and DACH/non-DACH status – but neither their joint distributions nor their associations with our average ratings.
- Selection criteria, agreed upon prior to de-blinding:
 - Maximize participation – accept up to 40 submissions, max. 1 acceptance per presenter
 - Gender and Q-phase quotas proportional to submissions ($\sim\frac{1}{3}$ women, $\sim\frac{2}{3}$ junior)
 - No positive/negative quota for international/German/DACH submissions

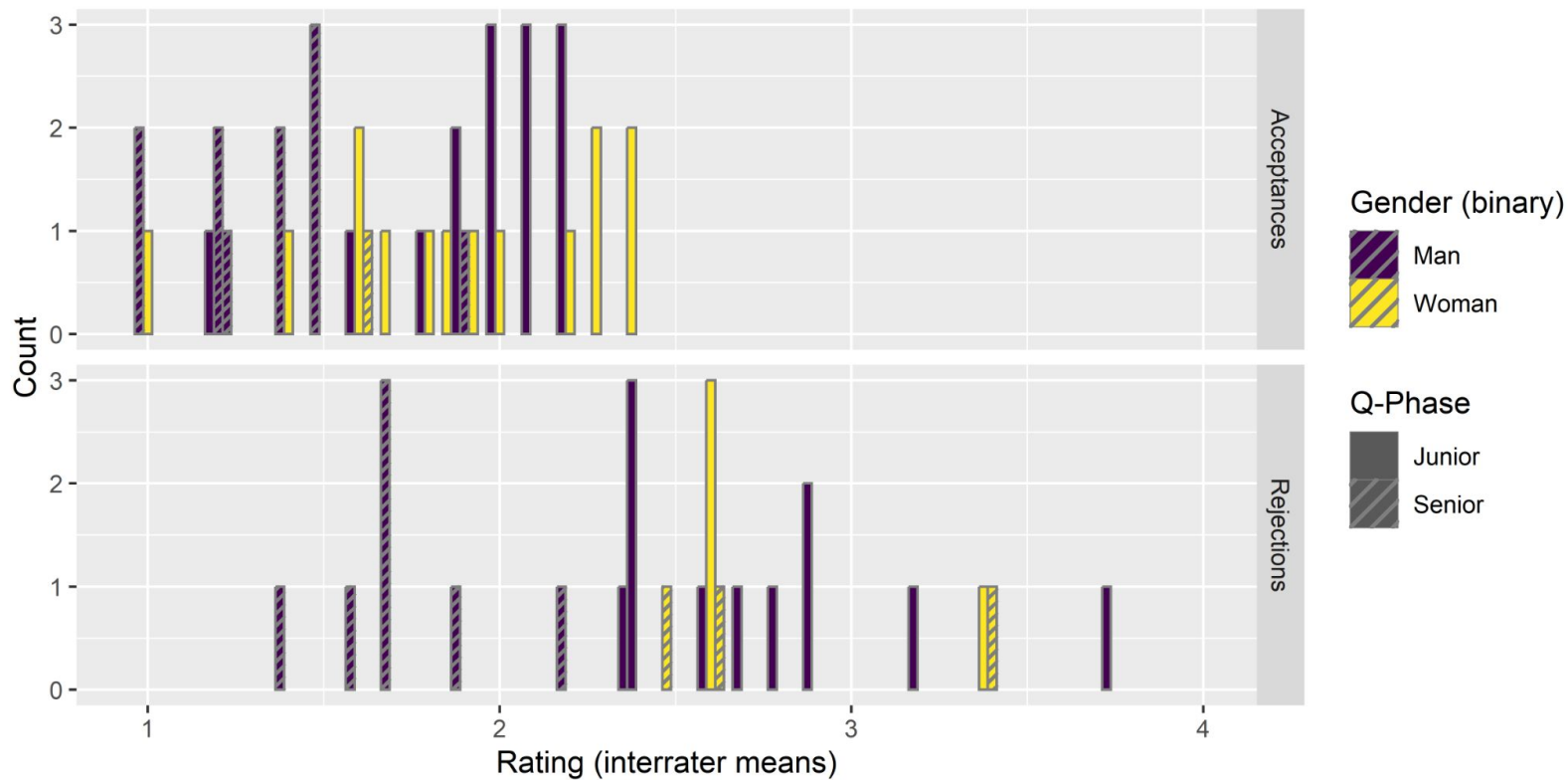
Ratings (cross-rater means) and predictors

	M1	M2	M3	M4
(Intercept)	1.934***	2.219***	1.972***	2.059***
Germans outside of D-A-CH (ref.: D-A-CH)	-0.134			0.063
Internationals outside of D-A-CH (ref.: D-A-CH)	0.584**			0.451*
Uni Mannheim (ref.: D-A-CH)	-0.062			-0.087
Senior applicants		-0.530***		-0.402*
Women			0.200	0.087
Num.Obs.	65	65	65	65
R2 Adj.	0.138	0.161	0.009	0.214

+ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

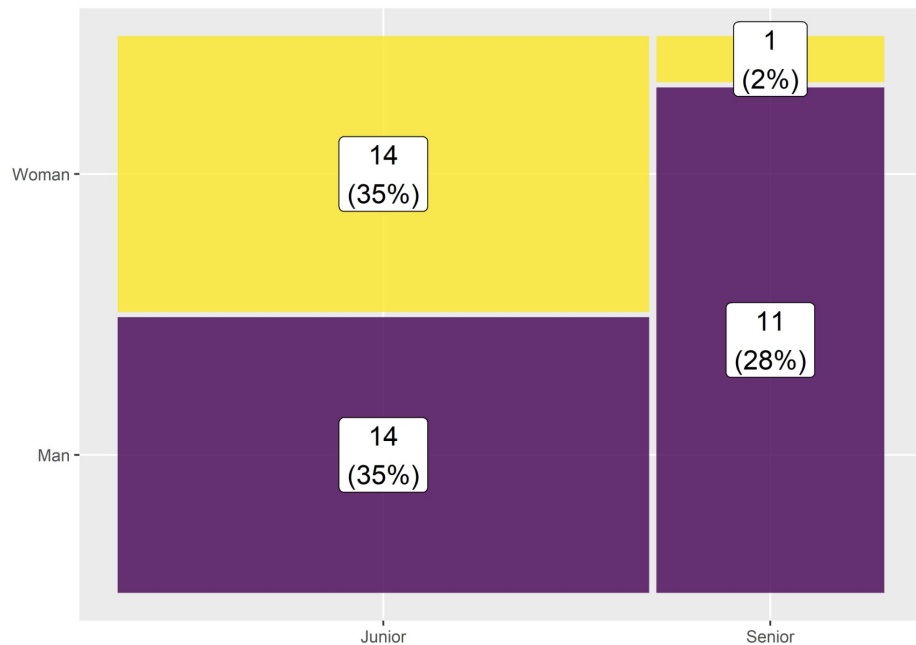
OLS regressions of cross-rater average scores. Scores range from 1 (definitely accept) to 4 (definitely reject).

Ratings and acceptances

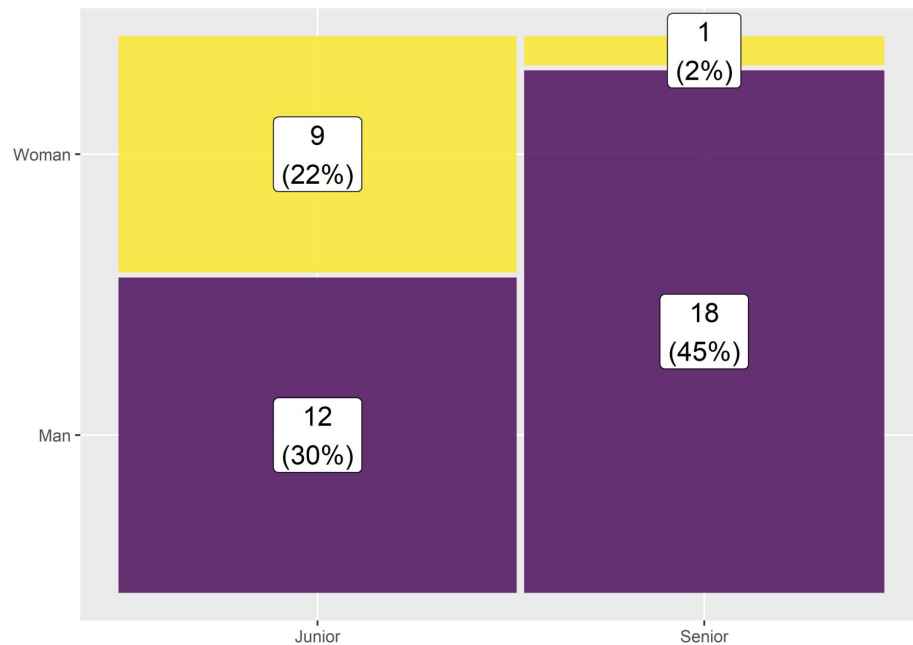


Acceptances

Factual (w/ quotas)



Counterfactual (w/out quotas)



Intra-group acceptance (IGA) rates

Gender	Q-Phase	N	Mean	SD	Accepted	IGA Rate (factual)	IGA Rate (counter-factual)
Man	Junior	25	2.3	0.5	14	56%	48%
Man	Senior	18	1.5	0.3	11	61%	100%
Woman	Junior	18	2.1	0.6	14	78%	50%
Woman	Senior	4	2.5	0.7	1	25%	25%

Take-aways

- >100% increase in both applications and acceptances vis-à-vis 2023 & 2024
- Submission rates by gender × Q-phase approx. in line with last year:
 - $\sim \frac{1}{3}$ women, $\sim \frac{2}{3}$ junior
 - notable association of gender and Q-phase status (junior women >> senior women)
- Unlike last year, large gap in ratings of senior and junior applicants – presumably a function of differential experience and resources
- Consequently, Q-phase quota had significant impact:
 - higher acceptances of junior men and women to the disadvantage of senior men
 - gender quota nearly obsolete after application of Q-phase quota

Section Meeting 2026

Section Meeting 2026

- Dominic Nyhuis and his team have kindly agreed to host the 2026 Annual Meeting at **Leibniz University Hannover**. Thank you!
- Stay tuned for updates later this year.

Discussion: Section's DAGStat membership

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- The Section has an annual DVPW-funded budget of 200€, of which it spends 150€ on being a member of the German Statistical Association (DAGStat).
- In the absence of generous local institutional funding (the norm), the 200€ are necessary for funding snacks, drinks and coffee at the annual meeting.
- Otherwise, participation fees must be instituted.

Proposed resolution

Die Sektion “Methoden der Politikwissenschaft” beendet ihren Status als Mitgliedsgesellschaft der Deutschen Arbeitsgemeinschaft Statistik (DAGStat) zum nächstmöglichen Zeitpunkt.

The section "Methods of Political Science" will terminate its status as a member society of the German Statistical Society (DAGStat) at the earliest possible date.

Miscellaneous