**Master Thesis by Helena Scheithauer, student 1343501**

**Title:**

**“Issues of active citizenship in a modern democracy: The example of Austria”**

**Abstract:**

The issue of active citizenship and the enhancement of democratic processes are on the political agenda of many countries these days. This Master addresses the research question of issues of active citizenship are present in Austria. It aims to explore the topic at hand and add to the knowledge base on this important issue. Firstly, a literature review introduces the underlying concepts and theories. Secondly, the mixed methods and explorative approach are described, including how the secondary data contained in 500 already transcribed interviews that were conducted with Austrian citizens as part of a larger project about citizen wellbeing in 2011 by Ponocny et al. (2014) is quantified. Thirdly, the data is analyzed, visualized, and evaluated by using the computer programs F4 Analyse, SPSS, and Excel. Fourthly, the results are described and discussed. Fifthly, the research findings are compared to Gifford’s (2011) general barriers to activeness and a Spanish focus group study that was conducted in 2011 as well (Ganuza and Espin, n.d.). Sixthly, limitations and challenges of the research are described. Lastly, the conclusion and outlook part summarize the thesis and its findings, which explore the fact that none of the available demographic factors have a significant influence on activeness; the main reason why people are not more active is that they do not know or cannot think of something they could change; dishonesty, egoism, and corruption amongst politicians are amongst the main reasons for being dissatisfied with current politics, which coincides with the number one wish for national political improvement being more honest and/or trustworthy politicians; and that the more dissatisfied people are with the current national political situation, the less active they tend to be.