

Right-wing Parties and Voters in Europe

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Office Hours: by appointment

Office: SCH 100.203

Course No.: 062109

Class Hours: 4.00-6.00pm

Class Room: online

Outline

In almost all European countries, right-wing parties exist and, in many countries, right-wing (populist) parties have gained in electoral strength over the last two decades. Even in Spain or Germany, where these parties had not managed to enter (national) parliaments in the past, this has changed over the last few years. While some scholars argue that globalization triggers right-wing votes, others point at broad processes of societal modernization. In this seminar, we will discuss right-wing parties (RWP) and their voters from a comparative perspective. We will deal with conceptual issues (populism versus extremism) and discuss a set of different explanations for the rise and continuing success of these parties. For example, we will analyze the links between xenophobia, economic insecurity, religion or Euroscepticism on the one hand and right-wing parties and voters on the other. In addition, we will discuss who the voters of RWP are and which factors explain their vote choice.

Requirements

This seminar aims at discussing the most convincing explanations for right-wing parties' success and the motives casting a vote for one of these parties. We will meet online (with Zoom) roughly every other week and work with Perusall in between. Perusall is a software that allows you to comment texts online and is implemented in the course page. *Each participant*—without exception—has to read and comment the five texts assigned to Perusall. Comments can mean that you pose questions, answer or reply to questions previously posed; you could provide a reference to related texts, too; you can point at inconsistencies within the text or at incompatibilities with arguments raised elsewhere. Comments and questions can relate to theory or methods. The idea is to provide an opportunity for “peer to peer instruction.” Often, you will be able to help each other understanding the text as you engage

with each others comments and questions. While everyone will be able to see the comments, only the course instructor can see the names.

Credit points

1. Basic requirement (**Studienleistung**)

Together with another student, you record a podcast at home that explains—in an engaging manner—the second text for each topic. You can record the podcast with your phone and have to upload it to Learnweb *before the session*, in which we discuss the topic in question.

2. Advanced requirement (**Prüfungsleistung**)

You write a term paper, which meets the specifications of your particular course of studies.

Outline

3. November: Introduction & Organization (Zoom)

10. November: Conceptual overview of the radical right (Zoom)

- Mudde, Cas (2007): *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 11-31.

17. November: The silent counter-revolution (Zoom)

- Ignazi, Piero (1992): The silent counter-revolution. Hypotheses on the emergence of extreme right-wing parties in Europe. In: *European Journal of Political Research* 22: 3–34
- Betz, Hans-Georg (1993): The new politics of resentment. Radical right-Wing populist parties in Western Europe. In: *Comparative Politics* 25: 413–427

24. November: Political cleavages / party systems (Perusal)

- Kitschelt, Herbert K. (2018): Party systems and radical right-wing parties. In: Jens Rydgren (Hg.): *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 166-199.
- Bornschie, Simon (2018): Globalization, cleavages, and the radical right. In: Jens Rydgren (Hg.): *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 212-238.

1. December: Radical right electoral successes (Zoom)

- Golder, Matt (2003): Explaining variation in the success Of extreme right parties in Western Europe. In: *Comparative Political Studies* 36: 432–466
- Arzheimer, Kai (2009): Contextual factors and the extreme right vote in Western Europe, 1980-2002. In: *American Journal of Political Science* 53: 259–275

8. December: The radical right in Eastern and Western Europe (Perusall)

- Polyakova, Alina (2015): The backward East? Explaining differences in support for radical right parties in Western and Eastern Europe. In: *Journal of Comparative Politics* 8: 49–74
- Allen, Trevor J. (2017): All in the party family? Comparing far right voters in Western and Post-Communist Europe. In: *Party Politics*, 23: 274–285

15. December: How does European populism differ from Latin American populism? (Zoom)

- Filc, Dani (2015): Latin American inclusive and European exclusionary populism: colonialism as an explanation. In: *Journal of Political Ideologies* 20: 263-283
- Mudde, Cas and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser (2012): Exclusionary vs. inclusionary populism in Europe and Latin America. In: *Government and Opposition* 48: 147-174

22. December: Programmatic appeals of the radical right (Perusall)

- Lange, Sarah L. de (2007): A New Winning Formula? The Programmatic Appeal of the Radical Right. In: *Party Politics* 13: 411–435
- Hillen, Sven; Nils D. Steiner (2020): The consequences of supply gaps in two-dimensional policy spaces for voter turnout and political support: The case of economically left-wing and culturally right-wing citizens in Western Europe. In: *European Journal of Political Research* 59: 331–353.
- Röth, Leonce; Afonso, Alexandre; Spies, Dennis C. (2018): The impact of Populist Radical Right Parties on socio-economic policies. In: *European Political Science Review* 10: 325–350.

12. January: Economic decline and the radical right (Zoom)

- McQuarrie, Michael (2017): The Revolt of the Rust Belt. Place and Politics in the Age of Anger. In: *The British Journal of Sociology* 68: S120-S152
- Gest, Justin; Reny, Tyler; Mayer, Jeremy (2018): Roots of the Radical Right: Nostalgic Deprivation in the United States and Britain. In: *Comparative Political Studies* 51: 1694-1719

19. January: Antisemitism and Islamophobia (Perusall)

- Wodak, Ruth (2018): The Radical Right and Antisemitism. In: Jens Rydgren (Hg.): *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 61–85.
- Rydgren, Jens (2008): Immigration sceptics, xenophobes or racists? Radical right-wing voting in six West European countries. In: *European Journal of Political Research* 47: 737–765.

26. January: Religion and the radical right (Zoom)

- Haffert, Lukas (2020): The long-term effects of oppression: Prussia, political catholicism and the Alternative für Deutschland. Unpublished manuscript. <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/ctkdf/>

- Montgomery, Kathleen A.; Ryan Winter (2015): Explaining the religion gap in support for radical right parties in Europe. In: *Politics and Religion* 8: 379–403

2. February: Gender differences in support for the radical right (Perusall)

- Givens, Terri E. (2004): The radical right gender gap. In: *Comparative Political Studies* 37: S. 30–54
- Harteveld, Eelco; Wouter van der Brug; Stefan Dahlberg; Andrej Kokkonen (2015): The gender gap in populist radical-right voting: examining the demand side in Western and Eastern Europe. In: *Patterns of Prejudice* 49: 103–134

9. February: Social media (Zoom)

- Urman, Aleksandra; Stefan Katz (2020): What they do in the shadows: examining the far-right networks on Telegram. In: *Information, Communication & Society* online first, S. 1–20
- Enli, Gunn (2017): Twitter as arena for the authentic outsider: Exploring the social media campaigns of Trump and Clinton in the 2016 US presidential election. In: *European Journal of Communication* 32: 50-61
- Silva, Bruno Castanho; Proksch, Sven-Oliver (2020): Fake It ‘Til You Make It: A Natural Experiment to Identify European Politicians’ Benefit from Twitter Bots. In: *American Political Science Review* (online first): 1–7. DOI: 10.1017/S0003055420000817.