

Transformation of European Politics

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Office Hours: by appointment

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Course No.: 064076

Class Hours: 4.00-6.00pm

Class Room: online

Outline

In many European countries, new parties have emerged and, as a result, party systems today are more variegated than in the past. These changes are a result not only of changing values among citizens but also a consequence of European integration and globalization. Politicians have become more professional over time but also more homogeneous in their career paths. Overall, we witness increasing polarization in many countries and democracy itself, rather than just specific policies, has become contested. In this seminar, we will look at these broad transformations of European politics. In particular, we will deal with changing values, party systems, representation and cleavage patterns. We are going to cover seven topics and convene (online) every other week. In each session, we will discuss a podcast and a text that provides background information for the interview. The idea is to deal with state-of-the-art research and to learn how important authors in this area of comparative politics approach their research questions, what their main insights are, and which methods they use.

Participants will be required to read and annotate a selected number of texts in the online platform Perusall. In addition, they will have to listen to the podcasts and present one additional text together with a fellow student as a podcast recorded at home. Texts for the recorded podcasts are listed under “additional reading.”

All the podcasts for this class are available at the page <https://soundcloud.com/user-467531770> but also on Spotify and other platforms.

Outline

12. April: Introduction & Organization

19. April: A New Cleavage

[Podcast Kitschelt](#)

Required reading:

- Kitschelt, H. (1999): European Social Democracy between political economy and electoral competition. In: Kitschelt, H., Lange, P., Marks, G. and Stephens, J. D. (eds), *Continuity and change in contemporary capitalism*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 317–345.

Additional reading:

- Benedetto, G., Hix, S. and Mastorocco, N. (2020): The rise and fall of Social Democracy, 1918–2017. In: *American Political Science Review*, 114, 928–939.

3. May: The Transformation of the Left I

[Podcast Gingrich](#)

Required reading:

- Gingrich, J. and Häusermann, S. (2015): The decline of the working-class Vote, the reconfiguration of the welfare support coalition and consequences for the welfare state. In: *Journal of European Social Policy*, 25, 50–75.

Additional reading:

- Mudge, S.L. (2011): What's left of leftism? Neoliberal politics in western party systems, 1945-2004. In: *Social Science History*, 35, 337–380.
- Abou-Chadi, T. and Wagner, M. (2020): Electoral fortunes of social democratic parties: do second dimension positions matter? In: *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27, 246–272.

17. May: The Transformation of the Left II

[Podcast O'Grady](#)

Required reading:

- O'Grady, T. (2019): Careerists versus coal-miners: Welfare reforms and the substantive representation of social groups in the British Labour Party. In: *Comparative Political Studies*, 52, 544–578.

Additional reading:

- Carnes, N. (2012): Does the numerical underrepresentation of the working class in Congress matter?. In: *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 37, 5–34.

31. May: Left-authoritarian Voters

[Podcast Wagner](#)

Required reading:

- Lefkofridi, Z., Wagner, M. and Willmann, J.E. (2014): Left-authoritarians and policy representation in Western Europe: Electoral choice across ideological dimensions. In: *West European Politics*, 37, 65–90.

Additional reading:

- Hillen, S. and Steiner, N.D. (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.
- Oesch, D. and Rennwald, L. (2018): Electoral competition in Europe’s new tripolar political space: Class voting for the left, centre-right and radical right. In: *European Journal of Political Research*, 57, 783–807.

14. June: The Populist Radical Right

[Podcast Mudde](#)

Required reading:

- Mudde, C. (2004): The populist Zeitgeist. In: *Government and Opposition*, 39, 541–563.

Additional reading:

- Rooduijn, M., Lange, S.L. de and van der Brug, W. (2014): A populist Zeitgeist? Programmatic contagion by populist parties in Western Europe. In: *Party Politics*, 20, 563–575.

28. June: The Struggle over European Integration

[Podcast Hooghe](#)

Required reading:

- Hooghe, L. and Marks, G. (1999): The making of a polity: The struggle over European integration. In Kitschelt, H., Lange, P., Marks, G. and Stephens, J. D. (eds) *Continuity and change in contemporary capitalism*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 70–97.

Additional reading:

- Hooghe, L. and Marks, G. (2018): Cleavage theory meets Europe’s crises: Lipset, Rokkan, and the transnational cleavage. In: *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25, 109–135.

12. July: European Integration and Brexit

[Podcast Hix](#)

Required reading:

- Hix, S. (2018): Brexit: Where is the EU-UK relationship heading?. In: *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 56, 11–27.

Additional reading:

- Hobolt, S.B. (2016): The Brexit vote: a divided nation, a divided continent. In: *Journal of European Public Policy*, 23, 1259–1277.