

Winter term 2023

Prof. Dr. André Kaiser

The Political Consequences of Electoral Systems (No. 14335. 0108, Exam Regulation 2021: SM Applied Theories and Methods I (Pol. Institutions and Representation))

Time: Fridays, 12:00 – 13:30
Location: Building 211, Room S103
First Course Meeting: 13 October 2023
Office Hour: After the course
Registration: Please register with KLIPS

Course description:

This course is designed to give an overview of current topics in the field of party system research and its intersections with electoral system research. This way, students should get an idea how research questions might look like if they plan to write a thesis in this area.

Logistics:

Students are expected to:

- attend classes on a regular basis
- actively contribute to class discussions
- complete assigned readings according to schedule and hand in three questions on the readings on Thursdays before class until 11:00 h via email to andre.kaiser@uni-koeln.de
- write a term paper of about 15 pages in length, handed in on 6 March 2023 (late assignments will be penalized, unless prior arrangements are made!)
- (be prepared to) give a short presentation in a workshop scheduled for 2 February 2023 on their planned term paper.

Since all reading assignments are in English, this will be the general classroom language as well. Participants therefore must know enough English to be able to participate actively. Perfection is not required – you just need to understand and make yourself understood.

Reading assignments:

The required texts will be made available to participants on Ilias.

Course schedule:

13 October 2023 **Introduction**

I will give a very short overview of things you (should have) heard about in BA level courses:

- What is a party system?
- What is an electoral system?
- Quantitative and typological approaches to analyzing party system stability and change.

- Sociological and institutional approaches to studying the party system–electoral system interrelation.

27 October 2023 **Stability and Change of Party Systems**

- Mair, Peter (1997). *Party System Change. Approaches and Interpretations*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, chs 3 and 4.
- Cox, Gary W. (1997). *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ch. 2.
- Chibber, Pradeep and Ken Kollman (1998). Party Aggregation and the Number of Parties in India and the United States, *American Political Science Review* 92: 329-42.

10 November 2023 **Electoral Systems and Women's Political Representation**

- Krook, Mona Lena (2017). Electoral Systems and Women's Representation, in Erik S. Herron, Robert J. Pekkanen, and Matthew S. Shugart (eds): *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*, Oxford: OUP.
- Gushchina, Kristina and André Kaiser (2021). Multi-Level Governance and Women's Legislative Representation, *European Journal of Political Research* 60:4, 934–953.

24 November 2023 **New Parties and the Niche Party Thesis**

- Meguid, Bonnie (2005). Competition Between Unequals: The role of mainstream party strategy in niche party success, *American Political Science Review* 99:3, 347-59.
- Abou-Chadi, Tarik (2016). Niche Party Success and Mainstream Party Policy Shifts – How Green and Radical Right Parties Differ in Their Impact, *British Journal of Political Science* 46:2, 417-436.

8 December 2023 **Do Electoral Systems Structure Party Systems or Is It the Other Way Round?**

- Colomer, Josep M. (2005). It's Parties That Choose Electoral Systems (or, Duverger's Laws Upside Down), *Political Studies* 53:1, 1-21.
- Colomer, Josep M. (2017). Party System Effects on Electoral Systems, in Erik S. Herron, Robert J. Pekkanen, and Matthew S. Shugart (eds): *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*, Oxford: OUP.

15 December 2023 **Parties and their Representatives: Do MPs become More Independent?**

- Carey, John M., and Matthew S. Shugart (1995). Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote: A Rank Ordering of Electoral Formulas, *Electoral Studies* 14:1, 417-39.
- Zittel, Thomas (2017). The Personal Vote, in Kai Arzheimer, Jocelyn Evans and Michael Lewis-Beck (eds): *The Sage Handbook of Electoral Behavior*. Los Angeles (CA): Sage, 668-687.

12 January 2024 **Contamination Effects in Mixed Electoral Systems**

Manow, Philip (2016). *Mixed Rules, Mixed Strategies. Candidates and Parties in Germany's Electoral System*, Colchester: ECPR Press, chs 2 and 4.

Herron, Erik S., Kuniaki Nemoto, and Misa Nishikawa (2017). Reconciling Approaches in the Study of Mixed-Member Electoral Systems, in Erik S. Herron, Robert J. Pekkanen, and Matthew S. Shugart (eds): *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*, Oxford: OUP.

19 January 2024 **Party Votes and Coalition Preferences**

Debus, Marc and Jochen Müller (2013). Do Voters' Coalition Preferences Affect Government Formation? *West European Politics* 36, 1007–1028.

Meyer, Thomas M. and Daniel Strobl (2016). Voter Perceptions of Coalition Policy Positions in Multiparty Systems, *Electoral Studies* 41, 80-91.

2 February 2023, **10:00 – 16:00** **Workshop**
Room 3.40 (IBW Building, Herbert-Lewin-Str. 2, 3rd floor)

(1) The Effects of Electoral System Change on Party System Stability

Brechtel, Thomas and André Kaiser (1999). Party System and Coalition Formation in Post-Reform New Zealand, *Political Science* 51, 3-26.

Vowles, Jack (2017). Electoral Systems in Context: New Zealand, in Erik S. Herron, Robert J. Pekkanen, and Matthew S. Shugart (eds): *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*, Oxford: OUP.

(2) Presentation of Term Paper Projects