



Universität zu Köln

Political Representation in Europe

Winter Semester 2018/2019

Wednesday, 10:00 - 13:30

(see course outline for seminar dates)

WiSo Gebäude, Seminarraum 110, Universitätsstraße 24

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Office Hours: by online appointment

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1. Course Description

This seminar discusses research on political representation at the national and supranational level in Europe from an analytical and empirical perspective. The readings focus on a combination of classic and recent work on parliaments, electoral systems, party systems, and representation. Questions that the course will address include: whose interests do politicians represent? How do political parties, members of parliament, and cabinets represent those interests at the national and European level? How are women's interest represented? How can voters hold representatives accountable and what are behavioral limitations in doing so? Throughout the course, students will also learn how to interpret quantitative research in the study of political representation.

2. Course Objectives

- Develop capacity to understand and critically reflect on the main debates related to the study of political representation in Europe
- Develop quantitative research skills
- Develop oral presentation skills
- Learn how to write an empirical research paper

3. Prerequisites

Students are expected to bring an open mind and be open to learn about empirical research designs and quantitative and causal inferential methods. It is recommended that students take the quantitative methods course jointly with this course if you have no background in quantitative methods training.

4. Course Requirements

This is a reading seminar. It is expected that students participate regularly and actively in the seminar. Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following components:

1. Discussion role (15%)

Each student will serve as discussion leader for a particular set of readings. The student will start the seminar by describing key conceptual issues, central arguments and debates, and methodological issues. This initial presentation should last for about 10 minutes. In addition, the student needs to prepare three questions for discussion that week. Questions need to be submitted to the instructor on Tuesday noon *before* the respective discussion week. Topics are distributed during week 1.

2. Response Paper (15%)

Each student will write one response paper commenting on the readings for a particular week. The paper should NOT summarize the readings. Instead, it should highlight the strength and weaknesses of the central arguments. Also, the essay should attempt to draw analytic linkages between the assigned readings and propose questions for further research. A good critique would include a suggestion for improving an analysis, e.g. using more compelling empirical strategy or data. A mere summary of the readings is insufficient. You are free to choose any week, but you cannot choose a week for which you are a discussion leader. The papers should be 3 pages long (double spaced, 2,5cm margins and 12-pt font, excluding bibliography).

3. Research Paper (70%)

Each student will write a 12-15 page research paper (PhD students: 15-20 pages), to be handed in on **January 25**. You are encouraged to use the research project as an opportunity to start work on your Master thesis, or to work on a potentially publishable paper. The list of references and appendices do not count towards the page limit. The final paper should focus on a puzzle in the field of political representation in Europe and be one of the following:

(a) a research design that proposes an empirical study (MA thesis or PhD dissertation) on political representation.

(a) an original empirical analysis using an existing dataset.

You are encouraged to discuss these options in office hours with the instructor. You need to hand in a 2-page proposal for the final paper, indicating choice (a) or (b) by **December 5** (email). It should describe the puzzle/research question, working hypotheses, and the possible methods and data you are planning to use.

5. Bonus Work

You will be able to collect 5 bonus percentage points to improve the final grade (bonus points are not transferable to other semesters). You may receive the top grade for this class without submitting any bonus work. The bonus points will be awarded to a group project involving the automated analysis of parliamentary speech. Details will be made available during the first lecture.

6. Course Material

Readings will be available as electronic articles through Ilias.

7. Course Outline

Week 1 **Introduction to the Study of Political Representation**

October 10

Readings:

- Manin, Bernard, Adam Przeworski, and Susan C. Stokes. 1999. "Elections and Representation" in *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*, eds. Adam Przeworski, Susan C. Stokes, and Bernard Manin. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1
 - Urbinati, N., and Warren, M. E. 2008. "The concept of representation in contemporary democratic theory." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 11, 387-412.
 - Catherine De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. 2018. "Democratic Politics and Representation". Draft book chapter.
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Week 2 **Electoral Rules and Connections**

October 17

Readings:

- Gallagher, M., and Mitchell, P. 2018. "Dimensions of Variation in Electoral Systems." in *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*
 - Golder, M., and Ferland, B. 2018. "Electoral Systems and Citizen-Elite Ideological Congruence." In: *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*.
 - Proksch, Sven-Oliver and Jonathan B. Slapin. 2015. *Politics of Parliamentary Debate: Parties, Rebels, and Representation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2.
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Week 3 **Domestic Party Competition**

October 24

Readings:

- Spoon, J. J., Hobolt, S. B., and De Vries, C. E. 2014. "Going green: Explaining issue competition on the environment." *European Journal of Political Research*, 53(2), 363-380.
 - Ezrow, L., and Hellwig, T. 2014. "Responding to voters or responding to markets? Political parties and public opinion in an era of globalization." *International Studies Quarterly*, 58(4), 816-827.
 - Ward, Dalston, Jeong Hyun Kim, Matthew Graham, and Margit Tavits. 2015. "How Economic Integration Affects Party Issue Emphases", *Comparative Political Studies* 48(10): 1227 - 1259
 - Abou-Chadi, T. and Krause, W., 2018. "The Causal Effect of Radical Right Success on Mainstream Parties' Policy Positions: A Regression Discontinuity Approach." *British Journal of Political Science*, pp.1-19.
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No class October 31

Week 4 **Representation in the EU**

November 7

Readings:

- Follesdal, A., and Hix, S. 2006. "Why there is a democratic deficit in the EU: A response to Majone and Moravcsik." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 44(3), 533-562.
 - Wratil, C. 2018. "Modes of government responsiveness in the European Union: Evidence from Council negotiation positions." *European Union Politics*, 19(1), 52-74.
 - Spoon, J. J., and Williams, C. 2017. "It takes two: how Eurosceptic public opinion and party divisions influence party positions." *West European Politics*, 40(4), 741-762.
 - Sorace, M. 2018. "The European Union democratic deficit: Substantive representation in the European Parliament at the input stage." *European Union Politics*, 19(1), 3-24.
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Week 5 **Accountability and Responsibility**

November 14

- Fortunato, D., and Stevenson, R. T. 2013. "Performance voting and knowledge of cabinet composition." *Electoral Studies*, 32(3), 517-523.
 - Spoon, J. J., and Klüver, H. 2017. "Does anybody notice? How policy positions of coalition parties are perceived by voters." *European Journal of Political Research*, 56(1), 115-132.
 - Bisgaard, M., and Slothuus, R. 2018. "Partisan elites as culprits? How party cues shape partisan perceptual gaps." *American Journal of Political Science*, 62(2), 456-469.
 - Hobolt, Sara B, Tilley, James. 2014. "Who's in Charge? How Voters Attribute Responsibility in the European Union." *Comparative Political Studies* 47(6).
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No class November 21

Week 6 **Representation of Women**

November 28

Readings:

- O'Brien, D. Z. 2015. "Rising to the Top: Gender, Political Performance, and Party Leadership in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science*, 59: 1022–1039.
 - Greene, Z., and O'Brien, D. Z. 2016. "Diverse parties, diverse agendas? Female politicians and the parliamentary party's role in platform formation." *European Journal of Political Research*, 55(3), 435-453.
 - Weeks, A. C. 2018. "Why Are Gender Quota Laws Adopted by Men? The Role of Inter-and Intraparty Competition." *Comparative Political Studies*
 - Dingler, S. C., Kroeber, C., and Fortin-Rittberger, J. 2018. "Do parliaments underrepresent women's policy preferences? Exploring gender equality in policy congruence in 21 European democracies." *Journal of European Public Policy*, 1-20.
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Week 7 **Alternative Forms of Representation and Conclusion**

December 5

Readings:

- Caramani, D. 2017. “Will vs. reason: the populist and technocratic forms of political representation and their critique to party government.” *American Political Science Review*, 111(1), 54-67.
- Frey, Bruno S. 2017. “Proposals for a Democracy of the Future” *Homo Oeconomicus* 34
- Tsebelis, George. 2018. “How Can We Keep Direct Democracy and Avoid ‘Kolotoumba’: Comment on “Proposals for a Democracy of the Future” by Bruno Frey.” *Homo Oeconomicus* 35