Winter Term 2013/14

Prof. Dr. André Kaiser

Seminar Comparative Political Institutions: The Political Representation of Women

Class Time: Fri 12:00 – 13:30 h
Classroom: Hörsaal des Forschungsinstituts
First session: 18 October 2013

Course description:

Although women make up more than half of the population they are underrepresented in legislative and executive politics in democratic political systems. Why is this the case? What are the consequences of female underrepresentation for politics and policy making? Are cultural attitudes fixed or do they change once a “critical mass” of female representation is achieved by using institutions such as quotas? Since we find enormous differences in the representation of women between countries a comparative perspective focusing on political institutions is a pertinent approach to giving answers to these research questions.

Logistics:

Enrolment will take place in the first and second sessions. After that, no further enrolments will be accepted. Students are expected to:

• attend sessions regularly
• actively contribute to classroom discussions
• complete assigned readings according to schedule
• give oral presentations based on assigned readings and hand in a research paper of about 15 pages in length on 15 March 2014 at the latest (late assignments will be penalized, unless prior arrangements are made!). You are free to hand in individual research papers or group research papers building on work done in the accompanying “Übung”. 
Since most 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.

**Office Hour:**

Tues 11:30 – 12:30 hrs, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP), IBW Building, Herbert-Lewin-Straße 2.

**Reading assignments:**

A reader with the required texts will be made available to participants at the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP).

**Course Schedule:**

18 October 2013  **Course Introduction**

25 October 2013  **The Concept of “Gender”**


**The Concept of “Representation”**


8 November 2013  Culture and Social Structure


15 November 2013  Voting Mechanisms


22 November 2013  Political Structure and the Role of Political Parties


29 November 2013  **Quotas**


6 December 2013  **Critical Mass**

13 December 2013  Women’s Legislative Behaviour


20 December 2013  Women’s Interests


Case Studies on Women’s Interest and Legislative Behaviour


10 January 2014  Presentation and Discussion of Planned Research Papers  (chaired by Hannah Grohe)

17 January 2014  Does Women’s Presence Increase a Legislature’s Legitimacy?


24 January 2014  Women as National Leaders

Guest Speaker:  PD Dr. Andrea Fleschenberg dos Ramos Pinéu (DAAD Long Term Guest Professor, Qaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan) tbc


31 January 2014  Effect of Women’s Presence on the Perceptions of Voters


7 February 2014 Female Agency in Re-gendering State Processes and Institutions
