Winter Term 2016/17

Prof. Dr. André Kaiser

Hauptseminar Comparative Political Institutions: The Political Representation of Women

Class Time: Fri 12:00 – 13:30 h
Classroom: Hörsaal des Forschungsinstituts
First session: 21 October 2016

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 session. 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 2017 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.
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:**

Appointments can be arranged via email (André.Kaiser@uni-koeln.de)

**Reading assignments:**

A reader with the required texts will be made available to participants in the first and the second session.

**Course Schedule:**

21 Oct 2016 Course Introduction

28 Oct 2016 The Concepts of Gender and Representation


4 Nov 2016  Culture and Social Structure


11 Nov 2016  Voting Mechanisms


18 Nov 2016  Political Structure and the Role of Political Parties


2 Dec 2016  Quotas


9 Dec 2016  Critical Mass


16 Dec 2016 Women’s Legislative Behaviour


13 Jan 2017 Women's Interests/Case Studies on Women's Interest and Legislative Behaviour


20 Jan 2017 Does Women's Presence Increase a Legislature's Legitimacy?


27 Jan 2017  **Effect of Women's Presence on the Perceptions of Voters**


3 Feb 2017  **Women as National Leaders/Importance of Role Models**


10 Feb 2017  **Female Agency in Re-gendering State Processes and Institutions**