

Political Sociology

Seminar

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Office Hours: by appointment

Block	Week	Topic
0	22.04.	Syllabus, Schedule's Discussion, and Other Organisational Aspects
1	04.06.	Democracy, Ideology, Values and Society
2	22.07.	Gender, Race and Religion
3	23.07.	Behaviour, Parties and Public Opinion

Seminar Description

Politics do not exist in a vacuum, the social environment where it takes place is fundamental for its framing. Thus, social circumstances of political phenomenon are necessary to define the former. The *Political Sociology* course deals with this approach by using an empirical perspective. Here, we will analyse social cleavages and its implication in political processes, sociological explanations for behaviour, i.e. determinants of people's actions and preferences. More specifically, we will look at day-to-day realities like political participation, citizenship, political parties or social movements in a scientific way.

Seminar Goals:

1. The overall objective of this seminar is to provide a strong and solid knowledge on the grounds of Political Sociology.
2. To improve critical and analytical thinking is expected from the participants of these classes using theories and test them empirically.

Seminar Expectations:

1. Class attendance is mandatory. In case of compelling reason(s) for non-attendance **I expect you to notify me** before, even within the one time possibility. In case that this does not happens, your permanence in the class can be compromised.
2. The readings are to be prepared in advance.

3. Active participation in class is important to improve the understanding of the presented perspectives.
4. The seminar will be taught in English.

Seminar Characteristics and Requirements:

1. This seminar will be put together with my guidance, presentations, group activities and in-class discussions.
2. In the days of block seminar we will start at 10:00, stop at 12:00 for half an hour of lunch break, restart at 12:30 and end between 15:30 and 16:00.
3. There are two different levels of grading in this seminar.¹ They are:
 - Regarding the normal attendance of the seminar and **mandatory to all**. It implies a short analysis (no more than three A4 pages, font size 12, one space and a half) where you resume the main arguments of a text at your choice (should be from the syllabus) and an additional paper related with it (this second paper should not be none of the texts present in the syllabus). It should be written in English and it shall be delivered at the latest at 23:55 of **15.08.2016** (this can be done by e-mail).
 - Only mandatory to the ones that choose to do the *Modularbeit* in this seminar. This is a final paper² (with a maximum of 20 pages, all included, A4, font size 12, one space and a half). It should be written in English and it shall be delivered until 23:55 of **15.09.2016** (this can be done by e-mail). The *Modularbeit* may be written in German but will not be me to read it. The structure of the paper has to be discussed with the instructor and implies the delivery of an A4 page with an abstract.³ The final paper should identify a research question, with respective explanations and the proposes and strategies to answer that question. I expect the seminar participants to read and discuss international literature. Empirical work will be more than welcome and valorised.
 - **All the activities in class, apart from the final paper, are not graded, but they are mandatory.**
4. Because of the University schedules, I will just be able to supervise you during the present term. The students that choose to write a paper later than that would have to do it autonomously without my advice. In these, cases it will be Professor Best to grade the papers and **he will not give advise** in the making of them, with the exception of cases like illness, child care, and so on.
5. I expect that the final paper results from your original work and that it does not involve academic dishonesty (falsification, forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, etc.).

¹For indications about how to cite and other formal details please see the Sociology webpage at: <https://www.sowi.uni-kl.de/soziologie/startseite/>

²The topic and structure of the paper shall be previously discussed with the instructor.

³This should be delivered until the **15.06.2016**. It should contain a provisory title, a research question, a small abstract and a few base references.

Seminar Structure:

22.04.2016 - Syllabus, Schedule's Discussion, and Other Organisational Aspects

BLOCK 1:

04.06.2016 - Democracy, Ideology, Values and Society

- *Readings:* Lax and Phillips (2011); Inglehart and Flanagan (1987); Smith et. al. (2011); Amenta, Caren, Chiarello and Su (2010); Finkel and Muller (1998);
- Presentation and discussion of the readings;
- Group work.

BLOCK 2:

22.07.2016 - Gender, Race and Religion

- *Readings:* Box-Steffensmeier et al. (2004); Galligan and Knight (2011); Hayes and McKee (2011); Hangartner and Hainmueller (2013); Billings, Dwight and Scott (1994); Hayes (1995);
- Presentation and discussion of the readings;
- Group work.

BLOCK 3:

23.07.2016 - Behaviour, Parties and Public Opinion

- *Readings:* Elf (2007); Thomasson (2005); Stockemer and Calca (2013); Blais (2006); Adams (2012); Bawn and Somer-Topcu (2012); Wlezien (2003); Chong and Druckman (2010);
- Presentation and discussion of the readings;
- Poster session.

Readings:⁴

1. Books and Book Chapters

- Booth, Wayne C., Colomb, Gregory G. and Williams, Joseph M. (2008) *The Craft of Research*, Chicago: Chicago University Press (selected chapters).
- Dalton, Russell J, and H D Klingemann, eds. 2007. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behaviour*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (selected chapters).
- Geddes, Barbara (2003) *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics* Ann Harbor, MI: University of Michigan Press (selected chapters).
- Gerring, John (2008) "Case Selection for Case Study Analysis: Qualitative and Quantitative Techniques", in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (selected chapters).
- Goertz, Gary (2006) *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*, Princeton: Princeton University Press (selected chapters).
- King, Gary, Keohane, Robert O. and Verba, Sidney (eds.) (1994) *Designing Social Enquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Princeton: Princeton University Press (selected chapters).
- Nash, Kate (2010) *Contemporary Political Sociology*, UK: Wiley-Blackwell (selected chapters).
- Norris, Pippa (2004) *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behaviour*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (selected chapters).
- Shively, W. Phillips (2013) *The Craft of Political Research*, New Jersey: Pearson (selected chapters).
- Thomassen, Jacques (ed) (2005) *The European Voter: A Comparative Study of Modern Democracies*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (selected Chapters).

2. Articles

- Adams, James (2012) "Causes and Electoral Consequences of Party Policy Shifts in Multiparty Elections: Theoretical Results and Empirical Evidence", *Annual Review of Political Science* 15(1): 401-419.

⁴All the readings will be available at the online platform (OLAT).

- Amenta, Edwin, Caren, Neal, Chiarello, Elizabeth and Su, Yang (2010) "The Political Consequences of Social Movements", *Annual Review of Sociology* 36: 287-307.
- Bawn, Kathleen, and Somer-Topcu, Zeynep (2012) "Government versus Opposition at the Polls: How Governing Status Affects the Impact of Policy Positions", *American Journal of Political Science* 56(2): 433-446.
- Bennett, Andrew and Elman, Colin (2007) "Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield", *Comparative Political Studies*, 40 (2), February, 170-95.
- Bernstein, S., Lebow, R.N., Stein J.G., Weber, S. (2000) "God gave physics the easy problems: Adapting social science to an unpredictable world", *European Journal of International Relations*, 6 (1): 43-76.
- Billings, Dwight B. and Scott, Shaunna L. (1994) "Religion and Political Legitimation", *Annual Review of Sociology*, 20(1): 173-202.
- Blais, André (2006) "What affects voter turnout?", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9: 111-125.
- Box-Steffensmeier et al. (2004) "The dynamics of the partisan gender gap", *American Political Science Review*, 98(03): 515-528.
- Caren, Neal, Ghoshal, Raj Andrew and Ribas, Vanesa (2011) "A Social Movement Generation: Cohort and Period Trends in Protest Attendance and Petition Signing", *American Sociological Review*, 76(1): 125-151.
- Chong, Dennis and Druckman, James (2010) "Dynamic Public Opinion: Communication Effects over Time", *American Political Science Review*, 104 (04): 663-680.
- Druckman, James and Arthur Lupia (2000) "Preference formation", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 3(1):1-24.
- Elff, Martin (2007) "Social Structure and Electoral Behaviour in Comparative Perspective: The Decline of Social Cleavages in Western Europe Revisited", *Perspectives on politics* 5(02): 277-294.
- Finkel, Steven E. and Muller, Edward N. (1998) "Rational Choice and the Dynamics of Collective Political Action: Evaluating Alternative Models with Panel Data", *American Political Science Review*, 92(1): 37-49.

- Galligan, Y. and Knight, K. (2011) "Attitudes Towards Women in Politics: Gender, Generation and Party Identification in Ireland", *Parliamentary Affairs* 64(4): 585-611.
- Gerring, John (2004) "What is a Case Study and What is it Good for?", *The American Political Science Review*, 98(2): 341-354.
- Green, Donald P., and Gerber, Alan S. (2010) "Introduction to Social Pressure and Voting: New Experimental Evidence", *Political Behavior* 32(3): 369-386.
- Hangartner, Dominik and Hainmueller, Jens (2013) "Who Gets a Swiss Passport? A Natural Experiment in Immigrant Discrimination", *American Political Science Review*, 107(1): 159-187.
- Hayes, Bernadette (1995) "The impact of religious identification on political attitudes: An international comparison", *Sociology of Religion*, 56(2): 177-194.
- Hayes, Danny, and Seth C McKee (2011) "The Intersection of Redistricting, Race, and Participation", *American Journal of Political Science* 56(1): 115-130.
- Inglehart, Ronald and Flanagan, Scott (1987) "Value change in industrial societies", *American Political Science Review*, 81(4): 1289-1319.
- Knopf, Jeffrey W. (2006) "Doing a Literature Review", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 39: 127-132.
- Lax, Jeffrey R., and Phillips, Justin H. (2011) "The Democratic Deficit in the States", *American Journal of Political Science*, 56(1): 148-166.
- Richez, Emmanuelle, and Bodet, Marc André (2012) "Fear and Disappointment: Explaining the Persistence of Support for Quebec Secession", *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*, 22(1): 77-93.
- Sartori, Giovanni (1969) "From the Sociology of Politics to Political Sociology", *Government and Opposition*, 4(2): 195-214.
- Smith, Kevin, Alford, John R., Hatemi, Peter K., Eaves, Lindon J., Funk, Carolyn and Hibbing, John R. (2011) "Biology, Ideology, and Epistemology: How Do We Know Political Attitudes Are Inherited and Why Should We Care?", *American Journal of Political Science* 56(1): 17-33.

- Stockemer, Daniel and Calca, Patrícia (2013) "Corruption and Turnout in Portugal: A Municipal Level Study", *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 60 (5): 535-548.
- Tilly, Charles (1995) "To Explain Political Processes", *The American Journal of Sociology*, 100 (6), 1594-610.
- Weaver, D. (1994) "Media agenda setting and elections: Voter involvement or alienation", *Political Communication*, 11(4): 347-356.
- Wlezien, Christopher (2003) "Patterns of Representation: Dynamics of Public Preferences and Policy", *Journal of Politics*, 66(1): 1-24.