Summer term 2016

Seminar Comparative Political Institutions: Party Systems and Electoral Systems

Prof. Dr. André Kaiser

Time: Tues, 14:00 - 15:30 hrs

Location: Gottfried-Keller-Straße 6, Hörsaal des Forschungsinstituts

First Course Meeting: 12 April 2016

Office Hour: Tues, 10:30 – 11:30 hrs Registration: Please register with KLIPS

Elective course for PhD students at CGS and IMPRS, Hauptseminar for MA students.

Course description:

This course is gives 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 do 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
- write a term paper of 15 pages in length, handed in on 10 September 2016 (late assignments will be penalized, unless prior arrangements are made!)
- (be prepared to) give a short presentation in one of the classes scheduled for July on their planned term paper.

Since nearly 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 according to a procedure which will be announced in the first course meeting.

Course schedule:

12 April 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.

19 April 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.

3 May Cartel Party Thesis and Party-State Relations

- Van Biezen, Ingrid and Petr Kopecký (2014). The Cartel Party and the State. Party–state Linkages in European Democracies, *Party Politics* 20:2, 170-82.
- Bolleyer, Nicole and Evelyn Bytzek (2014). Beyond Duverger: Party Ideology, Party-state relations and Informal Finance Strategies in Advanced Democracies, *European Political Science Review* 6:4, 503-25.

10 May 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.
- Meyer, Thomas M. and Bernhard Miller (2015). The Niche Party Concept and its Measurement, *Party Politics* 21:2, 259-71.
- 24 May 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.

31 May 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 and Thomas Gschwend (2008). Individualised Constituency Campaigns in Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: Candidates in the 2005 German Elections, *West European Politics* 31:5, 978-1003.

7 June 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.

14 June Party Votes and Coalition Preferences

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

21 June 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.

D'Alimonte, Roberto and Stefano Bartolini (1997). "Electoral Transition" and Party System Change in Italy, *West European Politics* 20, 110-34.

28 June Do Party Systems in Eastern Europe Stabilize?

Rovny, Jan and Erica E. Edwards (2012). Struggle over Dimensionality. Party Competition in Western and Eastern Europe, *East European Politics and Societies* 26:1, 56-74.

Casal Bértoa, Fernando (2014). Party Systems and Cleavage Structures Revisited. A sociological explanation of party system institutionalization in East Central Europe, *Party Politics* 20:1, 16-36.

5 July Towards A European Party System?

Hix, Simon, Amie Kreppel and Abdul Noury (2003). The Party System in the European Parliament: Collusive or Competitive?, *Journal of Common Market Studies* 41, 309-31.

Hix, Simon, Abdul Noury and Gerard Roland (2005). Power to the Parties: Cohesion and Competition in the European Parliament, 1979-2001, *British Journal of Political Science* 35, 209-34.

12 July Presentation of Term Paper Projects I

19 July Presentation of Term Paper Projects II