

Public Opinion on Democracy and Advanced Survey Methodology MA Seminar, Summer 2022

Day, time: Mondays, 10:00 – 13:30

Location: S103 (2nd floor)

IBW-Gebäude

Instructor: Lea Kaftan

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Office hours: Open request, offline or online

Course overview

Participants will discuss the most recent scientific publications on citizens attitudes towards democracy and the reasons for their support for democratic backsliding and anti-system parties. We will focus on liberal democracies, usually considered to be established and stable. Participants will have the possibility to question this assumption and their own beliefs concerning the role of citizens for stabilizing liberal democracies. At the same time, we will discuss the survey methodologies applied by the different researchers and replicate their findings. Participants will thus gain coding experience and learn to interpret the results of quantitative survey analyses, correctly.

Prerequisites

Participants should be able to read and discuss scientific articles in English. Perfection is neither expected nor required. Participants should also be familiar with basic statistical concepts such as Ordinary Least Square regressions and significance. Some preliminary knowledge of R will make it considerably easier to follow the course, but introductory material will be provided for self-study before the course starts. Furthermore, the willingness to participate in the sessions and to prepare the required readings are expected.

Course organization

If possible, this course will take place offline. Participants who cannot participate in the offline sessions due to the Covid-19 pandemic or other work or family related responsibilities will have the possibility to get feedback on short within-course R assignments and present their research projects in a hybrid format. If necessary, this course will take place fully online. Active participation is still highly encouraged.

Assessment

Participants of the course will have to present their research ideas and write a final term paper. The *term paper* shall describe a novel research question and an appropriate hypothesis briefly embedded in a theoretical framework, outline a survey project to test the hypothesis and critically discuss potential issues with the survey design. Thus, the term paper mirrors a Pre-Analysis Plan often published before researchers go into the field and collect their own data. Your grade will be solely based on the term paper.

In addition, participants must present their research idea to their peers. The *presentation* shall give participants the opportunity to get feedback from their peers as well as to get insights into other research projects by other participants. Although not graded, this will be an opportunity to get qualified feedback on the term paper, if taken serious.

Group work on the presentation and term papers is encouraged, as long as I can identify the contribution that each author has made to the term paper. The final grade is solely based on the term paper and will take the cohesiveness of the research project and the critical discussion of potential problems with it into account. Active participation in each session and the preparation of the required reading material is highly encouraged.

Additional course material

R Software

- Installation: <https://rstudio-education.github.io/hopr/starting.html>
- Reiche & Bogdanski, 2021: Analysing Quantitative Data with R, <https://drfloreiche.github.io/association.html>
- See also: <https://cccp.uni-koeln.de/de/teaching/information-for-students/r-software-for-students-in-the-ma-political-science>
- There are many tutorials online for single packages or types of analyses. Answers to specific questions are normally responded to on: stackoverflow.com.

Material on surveys

- Wolf, Christoph, Dominique Joye, Tom W. Smith & Yang-chih Fu. 2016. *The SAGE Handbook of Survey Methodology*. Los Angeles: SAGE.

Deadlines

Exam registration: 25 April 2022

Information on exam registration: <https://politik.uni-koeln.de/en/studies/examinations/registration>

Presentation: 11 July 2022, 10-11:30 am

Term paper submission: 31 August 2022, 11:59 pm

Any further information provided by the CCCP: <https://cccp.uni-koeln.de/de/teaching/information-for-students>

If you have difficulties meeting the deadlines because of caring responsibilities for children or elders, due to illness or other important and unexpected events such as the death of a close person, please get in contact with me and we will find a solution.

Course schedule

Introduction

4 April, 10-11:30: Survey research and theories of democratic stability

Recommended readings (and discussed in class):

- Easton, David. 1975. "A Re-Assessment of the Concept of Political Support." *British Journal of Political Science* 5(4): 435-57.
- Easton, David. 1965. *A System Analysis of Political Life*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 17-33/Chapter 2.
- Foa, Roberto Stefan, and Yascha Mounk. 2016. "The Danger of Deconsolidation: The Democratic Discontent." *Journal of Democracy* 27(3): 4-17.
- Inglehart, Ronald F. 2016. "The Danger of Deconsolidation: How Much Should we Worry?" *Journal of Democracy* 27(3): 18-23.
- Welzel, Christian, and Ronald Inglehart. 2008. "The Role of Ordinary People in Democratization." *Journal of Democracy* 19(1): 126-40.
- Wuttke, Alexander, Konstantin Gavras, and Harald Schoen. 2022. "Have Europeans Grown Tired of Democracy? New Evidence from Eighteen Consolidated Democracies, 1981–2018." *British Journal of Political Science* 52(1): 416-28.

Part I: Measuring citizens attitudes towards (liberal) democracy

23 May, 10-13:30: Learning democracy

Required readings and to dos:

- Install R and RStudio
- Mishler, William and Richard Rose. 1996. "Trajectories of Fear and Hope. Support for Democracy in Post-Communist Europe." *Comparative Political Studies* 28(4): 553-81.
- Rohrschneider, Robert. 1999. *Learning Democracy: Democratic and Economic Values in Unified Germany*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 8-32/Chapter 2.

Recommended readings (and discussed in class):

- Almond, Gabriel A. and Sidney Verba. 1989. "The Civic Culture". Newbury Park: Sage Publications. Chapters I and XIII.
- Fuchs-Schündeln, Nicola and Matthias Schündeln. 2015. "On the endogeneity of political preferences: Evidence from individual experience with democracy". *Science* 347(6226): 1145-48.

Replication material is available here: <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/29151> and on Ilias

30 May, 10-13:30: Citizens' support for democracy

Required readings:

- Claassen, Christopher. 2019. "Does Public Support Help Democracy Survive?" *American Journal of Political Science* 64(1): 118-34.
- Kiewiet De Jonge, Chad P. 2016. "Should Researchers Abandon Questions About Democracy?" *Public Opinion Quarterly* 80(3): 694-716.

Recommended readings (and discussed in class):

- Easton, David. 1975. "A Re-Assessment of the Concept of Political Support." *British Journal of Political Science* 5(4): 435-57.

- Kaftan, Lea. 2022. “Lip Service to Liberal Democracy in Western Europe?” *Under review with Political Science Research and Methods*.

6 June – no session due to Pentecost

13 June, 10-13:30: Citizens’ understandings of democracy

Required readings:

- Dalton, Russell J, To-ch’öl Sin, and Willy Jou. 2007. “Understanding Democracy: Data from Unlikely Places.” *Journal of Democracy* 18(4): 142-56.
- Kriesi, Hanspeter, Willem Saris, and Paolo Moncagatte. 2016. “The Structure of Europeans’ View of Democracy.” In Ferrín, Monica, and Hanspeter Kriesi (Eds): *How Europeans View and Evaluate Democracy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 64-88.

Recommended readings (and discussed in class):

- Kaftan, Lea. 2022. “Lip Service to Liberal Democracy in Western Europe?” *Under review with Political Science Research and Methods*.

Part II: Citizens as watchdogs of (liberal) democracy

20 June, 10-13:30: Citizens’ tolerance for democratic backsliding

Required readings:

- Berlinski et al., 2021. “The Effects of Unsubstantiated Claims of Voter Fraud on Confidence in Elections”. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*: 1-16.
- Grossman, Guy, Dorothy Kronick, Matthew Levendusky, and Marc Meredith. 2021. “The Majoritarian Threat to Liberal Democracy.” *Journal of Experimental Political Science*: 1-10.

Recommended readings (and discussed in class):

- Kaftan, Lea and Theresa Gessler. 2022. “The Democracy I Like. Perceptions of Democracy and Opposition to Democratic Backsliding in Liberal Democracies.” *Paper prepared for submission to a scientific journal*.

27 June, 10-13:30: Critical citizens

Required readings:

- Norris, Pippa. 2011. *Democratic Deficit. Critical Citizens Revisited*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2: “The Conceptual Framework”
- Geissel, Brigitte. 2008. “Do Critical Citizens Foster Better Governance? A Comparative Study.” *West European Politics* 31(5): 588-873.

Recommended readings (and discussed in class):

- Joe, Kathy, Finn Raben & Adam Phillips. 2016. “The Ethical Issues of Survey and Market Research” in Wolf, Christoph, Dominique Joye, Tom W. Smith & Yang-chih Fu (Eds.): *The SAGE Handbook of Survey Methodology*. no pages provided.

4 July, 10-13:30: Citizens’ support for anti-system parties

Required readings:

- Grant, Zack P. 2021. “Crisis and Convergence: How the Combination of a Weak Economy and Mainstream Party Ideological De-Polarization Fuels Anti-System Support”. *Comparative Political Studies* 54(7): 1256-91.

- Hartevelde, Eelco, et al. 2021. "A tough trade-off? The asymmetrical impact of populist radical right inclusion on satisfaction with democracy and government." *European Political Science Review* 13(1): 113-33.

11 July, 10-11:30: Closure and presentations