Public Policy and Party Politics (PhD Seminar)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to link public policies and policy-making processes to (party) politics. The course takes a comparative angle and will look at how party politics in different institutional settings interferes with public-policymaking and how diverging political ideologies influence and shape public policies. During the seminar, we will answer why governments often respond quite differently to essentially similar policy problems and current economic challenges (e.g. unemployment, financial crisis, globalization, immigration, etc.). In addition to familiarize themselves with the academic literature on public policy and party politics, the seminar requires students to examine policy proposals and how they alter along their journey through the legislative process. This is how researchers will learn how political institutions, third party actors (such as interest and lobbying groups) affect public policies. By doing this, students will also get familiar with primary sources such as policy proposals, parliamentary minutes and other sources of information that can be used to analyze public policies. By the end of the course students will be familiar with the core literature on party politics and public policy and have an understanding of how to analyze and trace public policymaking in empirical research.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Have a critical understanding of core political science theories relating to partisanship and median voter
- Have a well developed knowledge of the empirical literature that has applied and tested these theories
- Have a comparative grounding in major public policies and societal outcomes across (advanced) industrialized economies

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

You are expected to attend each seminar and regularly participate in discussions. Participation is graded as follows: attendance (but no participation) will merit a C+; good faith efforts at participation will get you into the B/B+ range; valuable contributions will get you into the B+/A range. Each week you are required to come prepared with a critical understanding of the mandatory reading. I have kept reading to a minimum in order to have an in-depth discussion of the subject during the seminar. The further reading is an indication of useful literature for essays or presentations but you should go beyond and find additional relevant sources in case you opt to write your essay on a particular approach/topic.

In one session, you will be responsible to **organize and lead the discussion** on the reading. The discussion can start off with a critical observation/remark you have that is related to the topic or the reading. Alternatively, you can make use of the questions (on the readings) submitted by your peers to structure and trigger the debate. Furthermore, you are encouraged to bring in your own research topic or try to relate the discussed approaches to your particular research question, even if you will not apply the specific approach in your own research. Thinking about how a research question could be addressed using different theoretical and empirical strategies.

Presentations are intended to provide a short (i.e. no longer than 20 minutes) and distinct introductory input to a session. Presentations critically assess indicated readings and provide a

clear added value to the audience, beyond the arguments/facts provided in the specified literature. Own input is highly recommended. Additional material, such as cases that bridge theory and practice can be used to illustrate a particular approach.

The short **position/response papers** can be submitted throughout the term. Papers are due on Monday before class (in the fall term, this may change for the winter term). When you submit a response paper for a given session, you are expected to be particularly active in the discussion that week. You should be prepared to talk about the views you expressed in the paper and discuss them with your class mates. The length of each position paper/comparison should not exceed 1.500 words.

The final research design paper should not exceed a length of 3.000-3.500 words (a style sheet clarifying the formal requirements will be uploaded to the e-learning platform. The precise substantive requirements will be discussed in class. The research design paper has to submitted through the e-learning platform until the end of April 2016 (exact date will be communicated at a later stage).

The final grade consists of the following components:

- Presentation in class and leading of the discussion: 20%
- Two position papers or comparison of legislative proposals (30%)
- Essays (mid-term/final): 50%

SOURCES

Political Science Data on Parties, Governments, Elections, Policies

- Website of the Comparative Manifesto Project https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/
- Parliament and Government Composition Data base http://parlgov.org/
- Policy Agendas Project http://www.policyagendas.org/
- Comparative Agendas Project http://www.comparativeagendas.org/
- Chapel Hill Survey http://www.chesdata.eu/

Legislative Processes:

- UK House of Commons http://www.parliament.uk/business/bills-and-legislation/
- US Congress http://www.congress.org/congressorg/issues/bills/
- German Parliament http://dipbt.bundestag.de/dip21.web/bt

GENERAL OVERVIEW

	Topic		Topic
Week 1	Introduction: how is public policy related to party politics?	Week 2	Representative Democracy and Public Policy-Making
Week 3	Changing nature of political parties (mass party, catch-all and cartel parties)	Week 4	Measuring Partisanship 1: Comparative Manifesto
Week 5	Measuring Partisanship II: Expert Survey	Week 6	Partisan Politics and Public Policy: Size of Government
Week 7	Partisan Politics and Public Policy: Welfare State	Week 8	Partisan Politics and Public Policy: Education
Week 9	Chicken or Egg? Do New Policy Demands Give Rise to New Parties or the Other Way Around?	Week 10	Do Parties or the Public Opinion Determine Public Policies?
Week 11	Policy Positions and Party Preferences over Time	Week 12	Still Room for Party Politics in Public Policy-Making?

DETAILED COURSE PLAN (REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READINGS)

Session (Date)	Topic and Readings
Session 1	Introduction: Partisanship Hypothesis Required Readings
	• Public Policy and Political Parites: Schmidt (1996)
	• Political Parties and Macroeconomic Policy: Hibbs (1977)
	Popular Readings:
	\bullet Why politics is stuck in the middle (NYT, February 2010)
	• Politics as warfare (The Economist, November 2003)
	• The 2012 election: Why it matters more than most (Washington Post, September 2011)
Session 2	Representative Democracy and Public Policy-Making Required Readings
	\bullet The Principles of Representative Government Manin (1997), Chapter 6
	• Political Parties and Democracy: Stokes (1999)
	Popular Reading:
	• Is there a crisis? (The Economist, July 1999)
	Recommended Readings
	• Does Representative Government Make a Diffrence?: Gallagher, Laver and Mair (2005), Chapter 13
	• Linkages between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Politics: Kitschelt (2000)
	• Party Government and its Alternatives: Katz (1987)

Session 3

Political Parties

Required Readings

- The Rise of Parties in Western Democracies: Daalder (2001)
- Cartel Party: Katz and Mair (1995, 2009)

$Popular\ Readings$

- Empty vessels (The Economist, July 1999)
- You pays your money (The Economist, The Economist July 1999)

Recommended Readings

- Empty Nets: Social Democracy and the 'Catch-All Party' Thesis: Allen (2009)
- Inside the Cartel Party: Bolleyer (2009)

Session 4

Measuring Partisanship 1: Comparative Manifesto

Required Readings

- Mapping Policy Preferences: Budge et al. (2001)
- The Party Mandate and the Westminster Model: Hofferbert and Budge (1992)

- Strengths and Weaknesses of Approaches to Measuring Policy Positions of Parties: Volkens (2007)
- The Policy Impact of Party Programmes and Government Declarations in the Federal Republic of Germany: Hofferbert and Klingemann (1990)
- Estimating Policy Positions from Political Texts: Laver and Garry (2000)
- Extracting Policy Positions from Political Texts Using Words as Data: Laver, Benoit and Garry (2003)

Session 5

Measuring Partisanship 2: Expert Surveys

Required Readings

- Some Expert Judgements Castles and Mair (1984)
- Expert Interpretations of Party Space and Party Locations: Huber and Inglehart (1995)

Recommended Readings

- Revisiting Expert Judgments: Mair and Castles (1997)
- Party Policy in Modern Democracy: Benoit and Laver (2006)
- Estimating Party Policy Positions: Benoit and Laver (2007)
- Expert Judgements of Party Policy Positions: Budge (2000)
- Experts and Manifestos: Different Sources Same Results: Keman (2007)
- Party Policy and Cabinet Portfolio in Ireland: Laver (1994)

Session 6

Partisan Politics and PP: Size of Government

Required Readings

- The Expansion of the Public Economy: A Comparative Analysis: Cameron (1978)
- The Political Economy of Government Domestic Expenditure in the Affluent Democracies: Swank (1988)

Popular Readings

• The Economist (Jan. 2010). Leviathan stirs again: The growth of the state. January 1st. url: http://www.economist.com/node/15328727

- Partisan Politics and Public Finance: Cusack (1997)
- Do Parties Make A Difference? Blais, Blake and Dion (1993)
- Do Parties Make a Difference? A Reappraisal: Blais, Blake and Dion (1996)
- Political Parties and the Supply Side of the Economy: Boix (1997)

Session 7

Partisan Politics and PP: Welfare State

Required Readings

- Political Partisanship and Welfare State Reform in Advanced Industrial Societies: Allan and Scruggs (2004)
- Politics, Institutions, and Welfare State Spending in Industrialized Democracies, 1960-82: Hicks and Swank (1992)

Recommended Readings

- Political Parties, Institutions, and the Dynamics of Social Expenditure in Times of Austerity Kittel and Obinger (2003)
- The Causes of Welfare State Expansion: Deindustrialization or Globalization?: Iversen and Cusack (2000)
- Distribution and Redistribution in Postindustrial Democracies: Bradley et al. (2003)
- Economic Globalization and the Welfare State in Affluent Democracies: Brady, Beckfield and Seeleib-Kaiser (2005)
- Economic Globalization, the Macro Economy, and Reversals of Welfare: Expansion in Affluent Democracies, 1978-94: Hicks and Zorn (2005)

Session 8

Partisan Politics and PP: Education & Health Care

Required Readings

- Determinants of public education spending in 21 OECD democracies, 1980-2001: Busemeyer (2007)
- Institutions, Veto Points, and Policy Results: A Comparative Analysis of Health Care: Immergut (1990)

- Partisan Politics, the Welfare State, and Three Worlds of Human Capital Formation: Iversen and Stephens (2008)
- The Political Origins of Primary Education Systems: Ideology, Institutions, and Interdenominational Conflict in an Era of Nation-Building: Ansell and Lindvall (2013)
- Review Article: Dismantling the Health Care State? Political Institutions, Public Policies and the Comparative Politics of Health Reform: Hacker (2004)
- Partisan Strategy and Path Dependence The Post-War Emergence of Health Systems in the UK and Sweden: Hicks (2013)

Session (Date)	Topic and Readings
Session 9	Chicken or Egg? Do New Policy Demands Give Rise to New Parties? Required Readings
	• The Radical Right in the Alps: McGann and Kitschelt (2005)
	• Exploring the Stabilization of a Political Force: Dolezal (2010)
	Popular Readings
	• Fascism resurgent (The Economist, October 1999)
	• Greening the globe (The Economist, April 2001)
	Recommended Readings
	• If you Can't Beat them Join them?: Bale et al. (2010)
	• Success in Opposition – Failure in Government: Heinisch (2003)
Session 10	Do Parties or the Public Opinion Determine Public Policies? Required Readings
	• Government Responsiveness and Political Competition in Comparative Perspective: Hobolt and Klemmensen (2008)
	• The Public as Thermostat: Wlezien (1995)
	• The Impact of Public Opinion on Public Policy: A Review and an an Agenda: Burstein (2003)
	Recommended Readings
	• Inequality, Public Opinion and Redistribution: Kenworthy and McCall (2008)
	• Social Policy Responsiveness in Developed Democracies: Brooks and Manza (2006)
	\bullet Political Representation and its Mechanisms: Hakhverdian (2010)

Session 11

Policy Positions and Party Preferences over Time

Required Readings

- Restructuration of Partisan Politics: Kriesi et al. (2006); Kriesi (2010)
- Multidimensionality of Party Competition: Albright (2010)
- Immigration, Europe and the 'New' Cultural Dimension: van der Brug and van Spanje (2009)

Popular Reading

• Displaced, defeated and not so sure what to do next (The Economist, January 1999)

Recommended Readings

- Random Walk or Planned Excursion? Dalton and McAllister (2014)
- Principles vs. Pragmatisms: Policy Shifts and Political Competition: Tavits (2007)

Session 12

Still Room for Politics in Public Policy-making?

Required Readings

- Party Government: The Challenge to Party Governments: Mair (2008)
- Parties Response to Globalization: Haupt (2010)

- Democracy Beyond Parties: Mair (2005)
- The Political Economy of Fiscal Consolidation Revisited: Hübscher (2015)

List of Readings – Required and Recommended in Alphabetical Order

- Albright, Jeremy J. 2010. "The Multidimensional Nature of Party Competition." *Party Politics* 16(6):699–719.
- Allan, James P. and Lyle Scruggs. 2004. "Political Partisanship and Welfare State Reform in Advanced Industrial Societies." *American Journal of Political Science* 48(3):496–512.
- Allen, Christopher S. 2009. "Empty Nets': Social Democracy and the 'Catch-All Party Thesis' in Germany and Sweden." *Party Politics* 15(5):635–653.
- Ansell, Ben and Johannes Lindvall. 2013. "The Political Origins of Primary Education Systems: Ideology, Institutions, and Interdenominational Conflict in an Era of Nation-Building." *American Political Science Review* 107(3):505–522.
- Bale, Tim, Christoffer Green-Pedersen, André Krouwel and Nick Sitter. 2010. "If You Can't Beat Them, Join Them? Explaining Social Democratic Responses to the Challenge from the Populist Radical Right in Western Europe." *Political Studies* 58(3):410–426.
- Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. 2006. Party Policy in Modern Democracies. Routledge Research in Comparative Politics Routledge.
- Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. 2007. "Estimating Party Policy Positions: Comparing Expert Surveys and Hand-Coded Content Analysis." *Electoral Studies* 26(1):90–107.
- Blais, André, Donald Blake and Stephane Dion. 1993. "Do Parties Make a Difference? Parties and the Size of Government in Liberal Democracies." American Journal of Political Science 37(1):40–62.
- Blais, André, Donald Blake and Stéphane Dion. 1996. "Do Parties Make a Difference? A Reappraisal." American Journal of Political Science 40(2):514–520.
- Boix, Carles. 1997. "Political Parties and the Supply Side of the Economy: The Provision of Physical and Human Capital in Advanced Economies, 1960-1990." American Journal of Political Science 41(3):814–845.
- Bolleyer, Nicole. 2009. "Inside the Cartel Party: Party Organization in Government and Opposition." *Political Studies* 57:559–579.
- Bradley, David, Evelyne Huber, Stephanie Moller, François Nielsen and John D. Stephens. 2003. "Distribution and Redistribution in Postindustrial Democracies." World Politics 55(2):193–228.
- Brady, David, Jason Beckfield and Martin Seeleib-Kaiser. 2005. "Economic Globalization and the Welfare State in Affluent Democracies, 1975-2001." American Sociological Review 70:921–948.
- Brooks, Clem and Jeff Manza. 2006. "Why Do Welfare States Persist?" Journal of Politics 68(4):816–827.
- Budge, Ian. 2000. "Expert Judgements of Party Policy Positions: Uses and Limitations in Political Research." European Journal of Political Research 37(1):103–113.
- Budge, Ian, Hans-Dieter Klingemann, Andrea Volkens, Judith Bara and Eric Tanenbaum. 2001. *Mapping Policy Preferences Estimates for Parties, Electors, and Governments* 1945-1998. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Burstein, Paul. 2003. "The Impact of Public Opinion on Public Policy: A Review and an Agenda." *Political Research Quarterly* 56(1):29–40.

- Busemeyer, Marius R. 2007. "The Impact of Fiscal Decentralization on Education and Other Types of Spending.".
- Cameron, David R. 1978. "The Expansion of the Public Economy: A Comparative Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 72(4):1243–1261.
- Castles, Francis G. and Peter Mair. 1984. "Left-Right Political Scales: Some 'Expert' Judgments." European Journal of Political Research 12:73–88.
- Cusack, Thomas R. 1997. "Partisan Politics and Public Finance: Changes in Public Spending in the Industrialized Democracies, 1955-1989." Public Choice 91(3-4):375–395.
- Daalder, Hans. 2001. The Rise of Parties in Western Democracies. In *Political Parties and Democracy*, ed. Larry Diamond and Richard Gunther. John Hopkins UP pp. 40–51.
- Dalton, Russel J. and Ian McAllister. 2014. "Random Walk or Planned Excursion? Continuity and Change in the Left-Right Positions of Political Parties." Comparative Political Studies forthcoming:1–29.
- Dolezal, Martin. 2010. "Exploring the Stabilization of a Political Force: The Social and Attitudinal Basis of Green Parties in the Age of Globalization." West European Politics 33(3):534–552.
- Gallagher, Michael, Michael Laver and Peter Mair. 2005. Representative Government in Modern Europe. 4th ed. McGraw Hill.
- Hacker, Jacob S. 2004. "Review Article: Dismantling the Health Care State? Political Institutions, Public Policies and the Comparative Politics of Health Reform." *British Journal of Political Science* 34(4):693–724.
- Hakhverdian, Armén. 2010. "Political Representation and its Mechanisms: A Dynamic Left-Right Approach for the United Kingdom, 1976-2006." British Journal of Political Science 40(4):835–856.
- Haupt, Andrea B. 2010. "Parties' Responses to Economic Globalization What is Left for the Left and Right for the Right?" *Party Politics* 16(1):5–27.
- Heinisch, Reinhard. 2003. "Success in Opposition Failure in Government: Explaining the Performance of Right-Wing Populist Parties in Public Office." West European Politics 26(3):91–130.
- Hibbs, Douglas A. 1977. "Political Parties and Macroeconomic Policy." *American Political Science Review* 71(4):1467–1487.
- Hicks, Alexander and Christopher Zorn. 2005. "Economic Globalization, the Macro Economy, and Reversals of Welfare: Expansion in Affluent Democracies, 1978-94." *International Organization* 59:631–662.
- Hicks, Alexander M. and Duane H. Swank. 1992. "Politics, Institutions, and Welfare State Spending in Industrialized Democracies, 1960-82." American Political Science Review 86(3):658–674.
- Hicks, Timothy. 2013. "Partisan Strategy and Path Dependence The Post-War Emergence of Health Systems in the UK and Sweden." Comparative Politics 45(2):207–226.
- Hobolt, Sara Binzer and Robert Klemmensen. 2008. "Government Responsiveness and Political Competition in Comparative Perspective." Comparative Political Studies 41(3):309–337.
- Hofferbert, Richard I. and Hans-Dieter Klingemann. 1990. "The Policy Impact of Party Programmes and Government Declarations in the Federal Republic of Germany." *European Journal of Political Research* 18(3):277–304.
- Hofferbert, Richard I. and Ian Budge. 1992. "The Party Mandate and the Westminster Model: Election Programmes and Government Spending in Britain, 1948-1985." British Journal of Political Science 22(2):151–182.
- Huber, John D. and Ronald Inglehart. 1995. "Expert Interpretations of Party Space and Party Locations in 42 Societies." *Party Politics* 1(1):73–111.

- Hübscher, Evelyne. 2015. "The Political Economy of Fiscal Consolidation Revisited." *Journal of Public Policy* forthcoming:1–29.
- Immergut, Ellen M. 1990. "Institutions, Veto Points, and Policy Results: A Comparative Analysis of Health Care." *Journal of Public Policy* 10(4):391–416.
- Iversen, Torben and John D. Stephens. 2008. "Partisan Politics, the Welfare State, and Three Worlds of Human Capital Formation." Comparative Political Studies 41(4/5):600–637.
- Iversen, Torben and Thomas Cusack. 2000. "The Causes of Welfare State Expansion: Deindustrialization or Globalization?" World Politics 52:313–349.
- Katz, Richard S. 1987. Party Government and its Alternatives. In *Party Governments: European and American Experiences*, ed. Richard S. Katz. Vol. 2 of *The Future of Party Government* Walter de Gruyter pp. 1–27.
- Katz, Richard S. and Peter Mair. 1995. "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party." Party Politics 1(1):5–28.
- Katz, Richard S. and Peter Mair. 2009. "The Cartel Party Thesis: A Restatement." *Perspectives on Politics* 7(4):753–766.
- Keman, Hans. 2007. "Experts and Manifestos: Different Sources Same Results for Comparative Research?" *Electoral Studies* 26(1):76–89.
- Kenworthy, Lane and Leslie McCall. 2008. "Inequality, Public Opinion, and Redistribution." Socio-Economic Review 6(1):35–68.
- Kitschelt, Herbert. 2000. "Linkages between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Polities." Comparative Political Studies 33(6/7):845–879.
- Kittel, Bernhard and Herbert Obinger. 2003. "Political Parties, Institutions, and the Dynamics of Social Expenditure in Times of Austerity." *Journal of European Public Policy* 10(1):20.
- Kriesi, Hanspeter. 2010. "Restructuration of Partisan Politics and the Emergence of a New Cleavage Based on Values." West European Politics 33(3):673–685.
- Kriesi, Hanspeter, Edgar Grande, Romain Lachat, Martin Dolezal, Simon Bornschier and Timotheos Frey. 2006. "Globalization and the Transformation of the National Political Space: Six European Countries Compared." European Journal of Political Research 45(6):921–956.
- Laver, Michael. 1994. "Party Policy and Cabinet Portfolios in Ireland 1992: Results from an Expert Survey." *Irish Political Studies* 9(1):157–164.
- Laver, Michael and John Garry. 2000. "Estimating Policy Positions from Political Texts." American Journal of Political Science 44(3):619–634.
- Laver, Michael, Kenneth Benoit and John Garry. 2003. "Extracting Policy Positions from Political Texts Using Words as Data." American Political Science Review 97(2):311–331.
- Mair, Peter. 2005. "Democracy Beyond Parties.".
- Mair, Peter. 2008. "The Challenge to Party Government." West European Politics 31(1):211–234.
- Mair, Peter and Francis G. Castles. 1997. "Revisiting Expert Judgements." European Journal of Political Research 31:147–157.
- Manin, Bernard. 1997. The Principles of Representative Government. Cambridge University Press.
- McGann, Anthony J. and Herbert Kitschelt. 2005. "The Radical Right in The Alps: Evolution of Support for the Swiss SVP and Austrian FPÖ." Party Politics 11(2):147–171.
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- Swank, Duane H. 1988. "The Political Economy of Government Domestic Expenditure in the Affluent Democracies, 1960-80." *American Journal of Political Science* 32(4):1120–1150.
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