Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg



Lehrstuhl für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Thomas Saalfeld

**Summer Semester 2018**

Vertiefungsseminar (BA)

**Vertiefungsseminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft**

**Political Institutions and Democracy in Africa**

Time: Thursdays, 12.00-14.00

Venue: F21/03.80

Start Date: 12 April 2018

Registration in

FlexNow!: 1-16 April 2018 (Deregistration until 23 April 2018)

Instructor: Martin Acheampong

**Zulassungsvoraussetzungen/Entry Requirements:**

Two out of three of the following modules: Lecture-based course “Einführung in die Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft”, “Proseminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft” or “Seminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft” (or equivalent modules in Comparative Politics or Political Science for visiting students)

**Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises/Assessment:**

Portfolio consisting of at least one seminar presentation (25%) and one written essay (75%)

ECTS credits: 8

**Programme/Course Description**

How weak or strong are political institutions in Africa and how can we situate enduring legacies of institutional vulnerability in recent democratic developments on the continent? Many scholars have claimed that the African continent is “institutionless”. What this means is that political institutions in Africa such as legislatures, judiciaries and constitutions are fragile and susceptible to manipulation. However events following the third wave of democratization in Africa in the early 1990s show that that characterisation is problematic and no longer tenable. In this seminar, we use specific case studies to focus our attention on how institutions shape political outcomes in Africa. The course is divided into three parts. The first discusses the contemporary relevance of informal institutions such as clientelism and informal networks in the politics of Africa. The focus of the second part will be on formal institutions like legislatures, elections, civil societies and constitutions and their constraining capacity on African political behaviour. In the third and last part, a synthesis of the two debates will be offered, particularly focusing on the ways formal and informal institutions interact to shape political developments across the continent.

**Literatur zur Einführung/Introductory Reading**

Cheeseman, Nic (2015). Democracy in Africa: Successes, Failures, and the Struggle for Political Reform. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Hyden, Goran (2013). African Politics in Comparative Perspective. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Posner, Daniel, N. (2005). Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa. Cambridge University Press.