Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg



Lehrstuhl für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Thomas Saalfeld

**Winter Semester 2017/2018**

Hauptseminar (MA)

**Hauptseminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft II**

**Radical Right-Wing and Populist Discourses in Legislative Debate**

(language of instruction is English)

Time: Wednesdays, 12.00-14.00

Venue: FMA/01.20 & RZ/01.02

Start date: 18 October 2017

Registration in

FlexNow!: 1-23 October 2017 (Deregistration until 30 October 2017) Instructors: Prof. Dr. Thomas Saalfeld and Dipl.-Pol. Lucas Geese

**Prerequisites/Zulassungsvoraussetzungen**

BA in Political Science or equivalent qualification in Political Science. Additional note for exchange students: This module requires some prior knowledge of Political Science and Comparative Politics. It is *not* recommended for students without some knowledge of Statistics. Familiarity with R would be advantageous.

**Assessment/Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises**

Evaluation will be a combination of one term paper (75%) and a seminar presentation (25%). All seminar sessions will be conducted in English. The term paper’s language is left to the discretion of the student (English or German). ECTS credits: 8

**Programme**

In recent years, populist and radical right-wing parties have become ‘relevant parties’ (Sartori) in many European democracies. Examples include the Austrian FPÖ, the United Kingdom Independence Party, the French FN, the Sweden Democrats or the German AfD. These parties challenge established mainstream parties by claiming to represent citizens whose interests are threatened by processes such as globalization and Europeanisation and are neglected by ruling elites. To what extent are they ‘niche parties’ protesting against immigration, Europeanisation and globalization? Are there differences amongst them in terms of policy positions and anti-establishment rhetoric? How are mainstream parties responding to the challenges posed by such parties? In this module, participants will learn how to use qualitative and quantitative methods of text analysis and evaluate models of party competition and polarization by studying the discourses of legislators representing populist and radical right-wing parties on the one and mainstream parties on the other.

**Recommended Introductory Reading**

Akkerman, Tjitske, Sarah L. de Lange and Matthijs Roduin (eds.): *Radical Right-Wing Populist Parties in Western Europe: Into the Mainstream?* London: Routledge 2016.

Bäck, Hanna and Marc Debus: *Political Parties, Parliaments and Legislative Speechmaking*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2016, 48-74.

Munzert, Simon et al.: *Automated Data Collection with R: A Practical Guide to Web Scraping and Text Mining.* New York: Wiley 2015.