

Otto-Friedrich-University of Bamberg
Professorship of Empirical Political Science
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Sieberer



Summer Term 2020 - (updated on 07.04.2020)

„HS(MA): Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft III - The “new cleavage” in Western Party Competition: Cultural Backlash or Class Politics in Disguise?”

Time: Tue, 12:15 – 13:45
Room: **online**
Instructor: Lukas Hohendorf, M.A.
FlexNow! Registration: 01.04.2020 - **19.04.2020** (de-registration possible until 03.05.2020)

If registration in FlexNow! is not possible, please write an email to [lukas.hohendorf\(at\)uni-bamberg.de](mailto:lukas.hohendorf@uni-bamberg.de)
Registered participants will be sent the Virtual Campus password on 20th of April 2020.

To obtain a final grade (8 ECTS), students have to accomplish the following tasks (portfolio)*:

- **write 3 reaction papers & 10 substantial forum posts during the semester**
- **prepare a research design poster or podcast (will be discussed at the end of the semester)**
- **write a term paper during the semester break (10-12 pages)**

***the portfolio tasks may be slightly adjusted during the run of the course depending on technical experiences with live-classes**

Program

Researchers agree on deep changes in party competition in the transition from modern mass societies to late modern individualized societies. While until the 1970s electoral behavior was more a question of group alignment than actual choice, political party agendas since then became less politicized in terms of class, but more in cultural terms. This results in the decline of the “Volkspartei” (catch-all parties) like Social Democrats and Christian Democrats/Conservatives and the rise of new populist radical right parties and green parties. While some researchers stress socio-structural changes in work relations and identity genesis as reasons for this development, others emphasize the role of globalization and new information technologies. It is an open question whether we observe solely de-alignment with the major party blocs or whether it co-occurs with voter re-alignment with new parties.

In the seminar series we will first treat basic concepts of party competition and political identities as well as identity politics on a theoretical level. Over the course of the semester, we will compare explanations for the developments outlined above. These include socio-structural, socio-economic, work-relation based, institutional, elite-centered, (political) communication-based and cultural approaches. The main question over the seminar will be, whether the phenomena are best understood as cultural shift of political competition or as class struggle in disguise.

Basic Literature

Norris, Pippa; Inglehart, Ronald (2019): Cultural backlash. Trump, Brexit, and the rise of authoritarian populism. Cambridge, United Kingdom, New York, NY, USA: Cambridge University Press.

Grande, Edgar; Kriesi, Hanspeter; Dolezal, Martin; Lachat, Romain; Bornschieer, Simon; Frey, Timotheos (Hg.) (2008): West European Politics in the Age of Globalization. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kitschelt, Herbert (2010): Patrons, clients, and policies. Patterns of democratic accountability and political competition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Office hours during the semester

Tuesdays 14-16h in FG1/01.11 (on demand), [lukas.hohendorf\(at\)uni-bamberg.de](mailto:lukas.hohendorf@uni-bamberg.de)