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Mannheim, 1. Dezember 2015

Master Seminar

Selected Topics in Comparative Politics: Innocent of Ideology? Political Belief Systems in Comparative Perspective

Lecturer: Harald Schoen

Time: Di. 12.00-13.30, 2st.

Room: B 143

Seminar Description:

The question of how citizens think about politics is central to the study of democracy. In his seminal article, Converse (1964) claimed that most citizens do not harbor full-fledged ideological belief systems. Accordingly, they rather think about politics in piecemeal terms. This claim has not gone without criticism. Rather, it has sparked an ongoing debate about how citizens make sense of politics. In this seminar, we will recap the scholarly debate. Students will review the latest empirical studies in the field and prepare research papers in which they analyze specific questions using available national and cross-national data sets.

Introductory Literature:

Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics". in: David E. Apter (ed.). *Ideology and Discontent*. New York: Free Press: 206-261.

Feldman, Stanley. 2013. "Political Ideology". in: Huddy, Leonie/Sears, David O./Levy, Jack S. (eds.). *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 591-626.

Recommended for:

M.A. Students in Political Science (2nd semester) and GESS-graduate students

Requirements:

Credit points can be obtained for a paper (8,000 words), the oral presentation of this paper, as well as active participation during the sessions.

Office hours: Tuesday 14.30-16.00

