

# **Comparative Government: Political Institutions and Their Impact on the Political Process**

## **Lecture**

Master of Arts (M.A.) Political Science ('Basismodul' Comparative Politics)  
Recommended for students in the first semester

Marc Debus  
Tuesdays, 10:15 – 11:45 am  
A 5, B 243

SWS: 2  
ECTS credit points: 6

## **Overview**

This lecture gives an overview of selected theoretical concepts and the main research findings in the field of Comparative Government, specifically focusing on the role of political institutions and their impact for political decision-making at all stages in the political process. The course introduces a number of core themes in the comparative study of political institutions, such as constitutions and their design as well as electoral institutions and their effects on turnout and voting behaviour. In addition, the lecture focuses on the impact of different institutional designs on patterns of party competition, government formation and coalition governance. In a third step, we discuss the effects of political institutions on various aspects of legislative behaviour.

## **Course requirements and details**

- After an introduction to the topic of the respective session, we will have a discussion on the basis of the respective literature (depending on the preferences of the participants).
- Certificate by written examination.

## Course schedule

### **10 February            Introduction: Institutional analysis and constitutions and their design**

Colomer, Josep M. 2008. "Comparative Constitutions." In: R. A. W. Rhodes/Sarah Binder/Bert A. Rockman (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 217-238.

Hall, Peter A./Rosemary C. R. Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies* 44(5): 936-957.

### **17 February            Institutions and veto player theory**

Ganghof, Steffen. 2003. "Promises and Pitfalls of Veto Player Analysis." *Swiss Political Science Review* 9: 1-25.

Tsebelis, George. 2002. *Veto Players. How Political Institutions Work*. New York/Princeton: Russell Sage, Princeton University Press: Chapters 1 and 2.

### **24 February            Effects of (electoral) institutions: Participation, representation and voting behaviour**

Stegmaier, Mary/Jale Tosun/Klara Vlachova. 2014. "Women's Parliamentary Representation in the Czech Republic: Does Preference Voting Matter?" *East European Politics and Societies* 28(1): 187-204.

Powell, G. Bingham. 2006. "Election Laws and Representative Governments: Beyond Votes and Seats." *British Journal of Political Science* 36: 291-315.

Debus, Marc/Mary Stegmaier/Jale Tosun. 2014. "Economic Voting under Coalition Governments: Evidence from Germany." *Political Science Research and Methods* 2(1): 49-67

Debus, Marc/Jochen Müller. 2014. "Expected utility or learned familiarity? The formation of voters' coalition preferences." *Electoral Studies* 34(1): 54-67.

Zittel, Thomas/Thomas Gschwend. 2008. "Individualized Constituency Campaigns in Mixed-Member Electoral Systems. Candidates in the German Parliamentary Elections in 2005." *West European Politics* 31: 978-1003.

### **3 March**

#### **Political parties and patterns of party competition**

- Adams, James F./Andrea B. Haupt/Heather Stoll. 2009. "What Moves Parties? The Role of Public Opinion and Global Economic Conditions in Western Europe." *Comparative Political Studies* 42: 611-639.
- Adams, James F./Michael Clark/Lawrence Ezrow/Garrett Glasgow. 2004. "Understanding Change and Stability in Party Ideologies: Do Parties Respond to Public Opinion or to Past Election Results?" *British Journal of Political Science* 34: 589-610.
- Benoit, Kenneth/Michael Laver. 2006. *Party Policy in Modern Democracies*. London/New York: Routledge: Chapters 2 and 3.
- Ward, Hugh/Lawrence Ezrow/Han Dorussen. 2011. "Globalization, party positions, and the median voter." *World Politics* 63(3): 509-547.

### **10 March**

#### **Comparative executives I: Presidential and parliamentary systems**

- Cheibub, José Antonio/Fernando Limongi. 2002. "Democratic Institutions and Regime Survival: Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies Reconsidered." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 151-179.
- Lijphart, Arend. 2004. "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies." *Journal of Democracy* 15: 96-107.
- Stepan, Alfred/Cindy Skach. 1993. "Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarianism versus Presidentialism." *World Politics* 46: 1-22.

### **17 March**

#### **Comparative executives II: Government formation**

- Bäck, Hanna/Patrick Dumont. 2008. "Making the First Move. A Two-Stage Analysis of the Role of Formateurs in Parliamentary Government Formation." *Public Choice* 135: 353-373.
- Debus, Marc/Jochen Müller. 2013. "Do Voters' Coalition Preferences Affect Government Formation?" *West European Politics*, 36(5): 1007-1028.
- Debus, Marc/Martin Gross. 2015. "Coalition formation at the Local Level: Institutional Constraints, Party Policy Conflict, and Office-seeking Political Parties." *Party Politics* (forthcoming).
- Glasgow, Garrett/Matt Golder/Sona Golder. 2012. "New Empirical Strategies for the Study of Parliamentary Government Formation." *Political Analysis* 20: 248-270.
- Martin, Lanny/Randolph Stevenson. 2001. "Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 33-50.
- Müller, Wolfgang C. 2009. "Government Formation." In: Todd Landmann/Neil Robinson (eds). *The SAGE Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Los Angeles: Sage: 227-245.

**24 March**

**Comparative executives III: Portfolio allocation**

- Laver, Michael/Kenneth Shepsle. 1996. *Making and Breaking Governments*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Chapters 4-6.
- Bäck, Hanna/Marc Debus/Patrick Dumont. 2011. "Who Gets What in Coalition Governments? Predictors of Portfolio Allocation in Parliamentary Democracies." *European Journal of Political Research* 50: 441-478.
- Druckman, James N./Paul V. Warwick. 2005. "The missing piece: Measuring portfolio salience in Western European parliamentary democracies." *European Journal of Political Research* 44: 17-42.

**14 April**

**Comparative executives IV: Coalitions and cabinet governance**

- Bowler, Shaun/Thomas Bräuninger/Marc Debus/Indridi Indridasson. 2015. *Let's Just Agree to Disagree: Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Coalition Agreements*. University of California, University of Mannheim: Unpublished Manuscript.
- Kam, Christopher/William T. Bianco/Itai Sened/Regina Smyth. 2010. "Ministerial Selection and Intraparty Organization in the Contemporary British Parliament." *American Political Science Review* 104: 289-306.
- Müller, Wolfgang C./Kaare Strøm. 2008. "Coalition Agreements and Cabinet Governance." In: Kaare Strøm/Wolfgang C. Müller/Torbjörn Bergman (eds). *Cabinet Governance: Bargaining and the Cycle of Democratic Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 161-199.

**21 April**

**Comparative legislatures I: Legislative organisation, parliamentary committees and bicameralism**

- Brunner, Martin/Marc Debus. 2008. "Between programmatic interests and party politics: the German Bundesrat in the legislative process." *German Politics* 17: 232-251.
- Sieberer, Ulrich. 2011. "The Institutional Power of Western European Parliaments. A Multidimensional Analysis." *West European Politics* 34: 731-754.
- Stratmann, Thomas/Martin Baur. 2002. "Plurality Rule, Proportional Representation, and the German Bundestag: How Incentives to Pork-barrel Differ across Electoral Systems." *American Journal of Political Science* 46: 506-514.

**28 April**

**Comparative legislatures II: Institutions and legislative behaviour**

- Bernauer, Julian/Thomas Bräuninger. 2009. "Intra-Party Preference Heterogeneity and Faction Membership in the 15th German Bundestag. A Computational Text Analysis of Parliamentary Speeches." *German Politics* 18(3): 385-402.
- Carey, John M. 2007. "Competing Principals, Political Institutions, and Party Unity in Legislative Voting." *American Journal of Political Science* 51: 92-107.
- Proksch, Sven-Oliver/Jonathan B. Slapin. 2012. "Institutional Foundations of Legislative Speech." *American Journal of Political Science* 56: 520-537.
- Sieberer, Ulrich. 2006. "Party Unity in Parliamentary Democracies. A Comparative Analysis." *Journal of Legislative Studies* 12: 150-178.

**5 May            Comparative legislatures III: Social roles, MP characteristics and legislative behaviour**

- Baumann, Markus/Marc Debus/Jochen Müller. 2015. "Personal Characteristics of MPs and Legislative Behavior in Moral Policy Making." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (forthcoming).
- Bäck, Hanna/Marc Debus/Jochen Müller. 2014. "Who takes the parliamentary floor? The role of gender in speech-making in the Swedish Riksdag." *Political Research Quarterly* 67(3): 504-518.

**12 May            Party politics and governing in federal and multi-level systems**

- Bäck, Hanna/Marc Debus/Jochen Müller/Henry Bäck. 2013. "Regional Government Formation in Varying Multilevel Contexts: A Comparison of Eight European Countries." *Regional Studies* 47(3): 368-387.
- Bäck, Hanna/Marc Debus/Heike Klüver. 2015. "Bicameralism, Intra-party Bargaining, and the Formation of Party Policy Positions: Evidence from the German Federal System." *Party Politics* [<http://ppq.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/09/12/1354068814549343>].
- Däubler, Thomas/Marc Debus. 2009. "Government Formation and Policy Formulation in the German States." *Regional & Federal Studies* 19: 73-95.
- Debus Marc/Jochen Müller/Peter Obert. 2011. "Europeanisation and Government Formation in Multi-Level Systems: Evidence from the Czech Republic." *European Union Politics* 12: 381-403.
- Marks, Gary/Liesbet Hooghe/Arjan H. Schakel. 2008. "Patterns of Regional Authority." *Regional & Federal Studies* 18: 167-181.
- Müller, Jochen. 2009. "The Impact of the Socio-Economic Context on the Länder Parties' Policy Positions." *German Politics* 18: 365-384.

**19 May            Legislative decision-making, policy outputs and policy outcomes**

- Debus, Marc/Christoph Knill/Jale Tosun. 2013. "Registration Fees for Same-Sex Unions, Local Party Politics and Societal Demand." *Local Government Studies* 39(6): 756-776.
- Knill, Christoph/Marc Debus/Stephan Heichel. 2010. "Do parties matter in internationalized policy areas? The impact of political parties on environmental policy outputs in 18 OECD countries 1970-2000." *European Journal of Political Research* 49: 301-336.
- Martin, Lanny W./Georg Vanberg. 2004. "Policing the Bargain: Coalition Government and Parliamentary Scrutiny." *American Journal of Political Science* 48: 13-27.
- Martin, Lanny W./Georg Vanberg. 2005. "Coalition Policymaking and Legislative Review." *American Political Science Review* 99: 93-106.

**26 May            Discussion and preparation for written examination**