

**Comparative Political Sociology**

**Lecture**

**Prof. Dr. Harald Schoen**

Mo: 10:15-11:45

Room: B 244

**Course Description:**

The main goal of this lecture is to present an advanced introduction to theoretical approaches, key concepts, and substantive issues in comparative political sociology. Building on a multi-level perspective, it will provide an overview of key concepts and theories in the analysis of micro-level processes of political behavior that are embedded in and feed into macro-level processes. Capitalizing on this analytical perspective, the lecture will also show major changes in the relationship between societal and political processes and institutions.

**Requirements:**

Regular class attendance and term paper.

**Recommended for:**

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

**Office hour:** Tuesday 14:30-16:00

## Course schedule

**15 February**            **Introduction**

**22 February**            **Cognitive architecture and information processing**

Lodge, Milton/Charles S. Taber. 2013. *The Rationalizing Voter*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chap. 2.

Taber, Charles S./Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50: 755-769.

**29 February**            **Political belief systems and ideology I**

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

**7 March**                **Political belief systems and ideology II**

Baldassarri, Delia/Andrew Gelman. 2008. "Partisans without Constraint: Political Polarization and Trends in American Public Opinion." *American Journal of Sociology* 114: 408-446.

Jost, John T./Christopher M. Federico/Jaime L. Napier. 2009. "Political Ideology: Its Structure, Functions, and Elective Affinities." *Annual Review of Psychology* 60: 307-337.

**14 March**                **Self-interest**

Iversen, Torben/David Soskice. 2001. "An Asset Theory of Social Policy Preferences." *American Political Science Review* 95: 875-893.

Sears, David O./Carolyn L. Funk. 1991. "The Role of Self-Interest in Social and Political Attitudes." *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* 24: 1-91.

***Easter Break***

**4 April**                 **Values**

Hitlin, Steven/Jane Allyn Piliavin. 2004. "Values: Reviving a Dormant Concept." *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 359-393.

Feldman, Stanley. 2003. "Values, Ideology, and the Structure of Political Attitudes." In: David O. Sears/Leonie Huddy/Robert Jervis (eds.). *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 477-508.

**11 April**                      **Social identities**

Huddy, Leonie. 2013. "From Group Identity to Political Cohesion and Commitment." In: Leonie Huddy/David O. Sears/Jack S. Levy (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 737-773.

Johnston, Richard. 2006. "Party Identification: Unmoved Mover or Sum of Preferences?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 329-351.

Schildkraut, Deborah J. 2014. "Boundaries of American Identity: Evolving Understandings of 'Us'." *Annual Review of Political Science* 17: 441-460.

**18 April**                      **Personality**

Caprara, Gian Vittorio/Michele Vecchione. 2013. "Personality Approaches to Political Behavior." In: Leonie Huddy/David O. Sears/Jack S. Levy (eds.). *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 23-58.

Gerber, Alan S./Gregory A. Huber/David Doherty/Conor M. Dowling. 2011. "The Big Five Personality Traits in the Political Arena." *Annual Review of Political Science* 14: 265-287.

**25 April**                      **Political participation**

Campbell, David E. 2013. "Social Networks and Political Participation." *Annual Review of Political Science* 16: 33-48.

Leighley, Jan E. 1995. "Attitudes, Opportunities and Incentives: A Field Essay on Political Participation." *Political Research Quarterly* 48: 181-209.

**2 May**                              **Dynamics of attitude formation and public opinion**

Druckman, James N./Arthur Lupia. 2016. "Preference Change in Competitive Political Environments." *Annual Review of Political Science* 19: 1-19.

Zaller, John. 1991. "Information, Values, and Opinion." *American Political Science Review* 85: 1215-1237.

Zaller, John R./Feldman, Stanley, 1992: "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36: 579-616.

**9 May**                              **Political communication and political behavior**

Jacobson, Gary C. 2015. "How Do Campaigns Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 18: 31-47.

Lenz, Gabriel S. 2012. "Learning and Opinion Change, Not Priming: Reconsidering the Priming Hypothesis." *American Journal of Political Science* 53: 821-837.

**16 May**

**Whit Monday**

**23 May**

**Social structure and political behavior**

Evans, Geoffrey. 2000. "The Continued Significance of Class Voting." *Annual Review of Political Science* 3: 401-417.

Evans, Geoffrey. 2006. "The Social Bases of Political Divisions in Post-Communist Eastern Europe." *Annual Review of Sociology* 32: 245-270.

**30 May**

**Concluding discussion**