



Wintersemester 2018/2019

Seminar (MA)

Hauptseminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft III

The Rise and Fall of European Social Democracy

Time: Thursdays, 14.00-16.00
Venue: F21/03.02
Start Date: 18 October 2018
Registration in
FlexNow!: 1-29 October 2018 (Deregistration until 29 October 2018)
Instructor: Javier Martinez Cantó, M.Sc.

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.

Assessment/Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises

Evaluation will be a portfolio of one term paper (75%) and a seminar presentation (25%). All seminar sessions will be conducted in English. ECTS credits: 8

Programme/Course Description

Social democratic parties in Europe find themselves at a crossroad. Since Tony Blair and Gerhard Schröder led a revival of social-democratic parties in the early 2000s, the electoral fate of these parties has just worsened and some parties like the Dutch and the French ones, score below 10% of votes. This striking fact does not correspond with the historical importance of these parties. On the one hand, the very contemporary concept of political party appears with the first mass organizations of industrial workers who founded still-living social democratic parties like the German SPD or the Spanish PSOE. On the other hand, these parties that have played a central role in social changes like the enlargement of the electoral franchise, the construction of post-WWII welfare states and the foundation of the EU. Using both a historical and analytical perspective, this course analyses the crucial role of social democratic parties in Europe during the 20th century, as well as their challenges for the 21st century. Theoretically this course is embedded within the main contemporary theories of party competition.

Literatur zur Einführung/Introductory Reading

- Beramendi, P., Häusermann, S., Kitschelt, H., Kriesi, H., 2015. Introduction: The politics of advanced capitalism, *The Politics of Advanced Capitalism*.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781316163245.002>
- Piketty, T., 2018. Brahmin Left vs Merchant Right: Rising Inequality and the Changing Structure of Political Conflict (Evidence from France & the US, 1948-2017), WID. World Working Paper Series N° 2018/7. <http://piketty.pse.ens.fr/files/Piketty2018.pdf>