

Summer term 2016

Seminar Comparative Political Institutions: **Party Systems and Electoral Systems**

**Prof. Dr. André Kaiser**

Time: Tues, 14:00 – 15:30 hrs  
Location: Gottfried-Keller-Straße 6, Hörsaal des Forschungsinstituts  
First Course Meeting: 12 April 2016  
Office Hour: Tues, 10:30 – 11:30 hrs  
Registration: Please register with KLIPS

Elective course for PhD students at CGS and IMPRS, Hauptseminar for MA students.

### **Course description:**

This course gives an overview of current topics in the field of party system research and its intersections with electoral system research. This way, students should get an idea how research questions might look like if they plan to do a thesis in this area.

### **Logistics:**

Students are expected to:

- attend classes on a regular basis
- actively contribute to class discussions
- complete assigned readings according to schedule
- write a term paper of 15 pages in length, handed in on 10 September 2016 (late assignments will be penalized, unless prior arrangements are made!)
- (be prepared to) give a short presentation in one of the classes scheduled for July on their planned term paper.

Since nearly all reading assignments are in English, this will be the general classroom language as well. Participants therefore must know enough English to be able to participate actively. Perfection is not required – you just need to understand and make yourself understood.

### **Reading assignments:**

The required texts will be made available to participants according to a procedure which will be announced in the first course meeting.

### **Course schedule:**

12 April                      **Introduction**

I will give a very short overview of things you (should have) heard about in BA level courses:

- What is a party system?
- What is an electoral system?
- Quantitative and typological approaches to analyzing party system stability and change.
- Sociological and institutional approaches to studying the party system–electoral system interrelation.

19 April

### **Stability and Change of Party Systems**

Mair, Peter (1997). *Party System Change. Approaches and Interpretations*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, chs 3 and 4.

Cox, Gary W. (1997). *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ch. 2.

Chibber, Pradeep and Ken Kollman (1998). Party Aggregation and the Number of Parties in India and the United States, *American Political Science Review* 92: 329-42.

3 May

### **Cartel Party Thesis and Party-State Relations**

Van Biezen, Ingrid and Petr Kopecký (2014). The Cartel Party and the State. Party-state Linkages in European Democracies, *Party Politics* 20:2, 170-82.

Bolleyer, Nicole and Evelyn Bytzek (2014). Beyond Duverger: Party Ideology, Party-state relations and Informal Finance Strategies in Advanced Democracies, *European Political Science Review* 6:4, 503-25.

10 May

### **New Parties and the Niche Party Thesis**

Meguid, Bonnie (2005). Competition Between Unequals: The role of mainstream party strategy in niche party success, *American Political Science Review* 99:3, 347-59.

Meyer, Thomas M. and Bernhard Miller (2015). The Niche Party Concept and its Measurement, *Party Politics* 21:2, 259-71.

24 May

Do Electoral Systems Structure Party Systems or Is It the Other Way Round?

Colomer, Josep M. (2005). It's Parties That Choose Electoral Systems (or, Duverger's Laws Upside Down), *Political Studies* 53:1, 1-21.

31 May

### **Parties and their Representatives: Do MPs become more Independent?**

Carey, John M., and Matthew S. Shugart (1995). Incentives to Cultivate a Personal Vote: A Rank Ordering of Electoral Formulas, *Electoral Studies* 14:1, 417-39.

Zittel, Thomas and Thomas Gschwend (2008). Individualised Constituency Campaigns in Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: Candidates in the 2005 German Elections, *West European Politics* 31:5, 978-1003.

7 June

### **Contamination Effects in Mixed Electoral Systems**

Manow, Philip (2016). *Mixed Rules, Mixed Strategies. Candidates and Parties in Germany's Electoral System*, Colchester: ECPR Press, chs 2 and 4.

14 June

### **Party Votes and Coalition Preferences**

Meyer, Thomas M. and Daniel Strobl (2016). Voter Perceptions of Coalition Policy Positions in Multiparty Systems, *Electoral Studies* 41, 80-91.

