Dr. Giuseppe Carteny and Dr. Alexander Hartland

Chair for Political Science with Focus European integration and International Relations, Department of European Social Sciences

Saarland University

Email:

- [giuseppe.carteny@uni-saarland.de](mailto:giuseppe.carteny@uni-saarland.de)

- [alexander.hartland@uni-saarland.de](mailto:alexander.hartland@uni-saarland.de)

Time and Location : Mon, 12:00-13:45; C5 3, Room 0.23

Consultation hours : ...

Research Seminar

**Quantitative Research in Political Science**

**“**How to Apply the Classical Toolbox”

&

“How to Analyse Digital Content for Political Science Research”

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# General information

**Module**: The aim of the entire module is to prepare students for their Bachelor's thesis. In this respect, students will:

* learn to critically discuss current research contributions,
* deepen their methodological skills by critically evaluating current research literature,
* learn to develop a research question and draft a suitable research design;
* practise how to carry out and write up their own empirical work in an exemplary manner.

**Seminar**: The seminar provides students with a comprehensive overview of the main quantitative tools used in empirical political science and aims to enhance their ability to develop scientifically rigorous research designs. The course will begin by enhancing students' knowledge of the R programming language and classical statistical methods. The course then will move to methods for the quantitative analysis of text. Students will be guided in developing their own research designs, with particular emphasis on translating concepts into measures, moving from research questions to empirically testable hypotheses, and selecting appropriate analytical tools to examine their data.

**Aim:** The project seminar aims to help students in developing (i) their own questions on European politics research, (ii) a suitable design for addressing said questions, (iii) analyse relevant data with proper methods, (iv) effectively communicate their results, and (v) draw substantive conclusions from their empirical analyses.

**Related seminar**: This seminar is closely linked with the seminar taught by Prof. Dr. Daniela Braun's 'Current Developments in Political Science Research on Europe: "Legitimacy Problems and Polarisation in European Societies"'.[**2**](#_bookmark1) In particular, students will replicate a selection of studies addressed in the above mentioned seminar.

**Literature:**  We will only make the literature used in the seminar available to you via Teams if we don't have access to it through the UdS libraries. Since the library now offers sufficient access to political science journals and books, I assume that you have researched the literature.

**Examination**: The examination for this course is a graded term paper, based on the presentation prepared for the course taught by Prof. Dr. Braun Current Developments in Political Science Research on Europe: "Legitimacy Problems and Polarisation in European Societies"'.

The term paper should include the following elements:[^2]

1. Introduction: Why is the theme exciting and important? what is the social and scientific relevance?
2. Research question(s): What is the specific question addressed by the paper?
3. State of the art: What knowledge we already about this topic and/or research questions?
4. Research design: How the research questions are going to be investigated?
   1. Concepts – i.e., What’s your analytical model?
   2. Case selection – i.e., Country selection, time period analysed. Why the case is relevant for your research questions?
   3. Data – i.e., Why the chosen data are useful for addressing your research questions? What are the main characteristics of the data?;
   4. Operationalization/Measurements– i.e., which variables and how you are going to manipulate them?
   5. Methods – i.e., what’s your statistical model?
5. Results: What are the estimates of your models and how they can be interepreted? Do your
6. Discussion of the results and conclusions: What are the implications of the results for the topic under investigation?

Sequence for a successful term paper:

Procedure for a successful presentation:

1. you think about a research question as early as possible and in line with the content of the seminar.
2. you research the state of research in this area to see what is already available on this topic.
3. if there are any uncertainties or a need for coordination, you are welcome to come to my office hours after these two steps (!) (whereby you send me an abstract beforehand, which contains the research question and a brief summary of the current state of research).
4. you prepare an abstract that contains all the aspects mentioned above: Starting point/ hook; research question/ research question; research status; research design. Please upload this abstract to the corresponding folder on Teams by Tuesday morning (08:00) at the latest before your presentation. In this way, you give the panellists of the respective session a good opportunity to prepare.
5. you create a presentation that contains all the aspects mentioned above: Starting point/ hook; question/ research question; state of research; research design.
6. Following the presentation, you will receive feedback from the panellists and myself, particularly with regard to the following aspects: Starting point/ main topic; research question; state of research; research design. As a result, you will receive two types of feedback on your presentation (peer feedback from the panellists and my feedback) and should use this for the preparation of your Bachelor's thesis. Furthermore, we recommend that you use this research design in the respective teaching research projects to carry out your empirical analyses.

[^2]: See: Gschwend, Thomas & Schimmelfennig, Frank (2007): Introduction: Designing research in political science - a dialogue between theory and data. In: Gschwend, Thomas & Frank Schimmelfennig (eds.): Research design in political science: how to practice what they preach (pp. 1-18). Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan. https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:0168-ssoar-258302.

# Session overview

**block I: Introduction**

1. **[09.04.] Basics of the Seminar**

***Preparation the class:***

1. **[16.04.] Political Legitimacy: Basics**

***Preparation the class:***

***planning the Meeting:***

* + Common Development of the Textbook chapter
  + Adjustment on political science European research

1. **[23.04.] Research task to political legitimacy**

***Preparation of the session:*** Each participant of the seminar selects three texts that deal with the topic of political legitimacy in Europe and familiarizes himself with the central contents as far as trusted, that it as Suggestion for the Seminar reading into the Run go can. Before the session begins, you will upload the texts, along with one document per person containing the three references and three abstracts, to the designated folder in Teams. This is important, as you will then be arguing for your respective texts in the session itself.

***planning the Meeting:*** I become in this meeting not present be, but if necessary chic I You will be given a person who will take over the overall coordination of the meeting to ensure that the corresponding Result produced becomes. This meeting serves alone the Literature selection for the coming weeks. The students to exchange itself in following small groups out of and select two texts per group. We will read and discuss these texts together over the next four weeks:

* + group 1: Behtash/Deckers/Flierl/Hauck/Henrich
  + group 2: Hitzelberger/Honne/Leinenbach/Lentes/Montalto
  + group 3: Naumann/Neumann/Sailer/Schäfer/Schlicker
  + group 4: Speth/Wesp/Wildermuth/Wuillemet/Zell

**Literature suggestions (to inspiration and as Starting point for Her Research)** [4](#_bookmark3) **:**

*Devine, Daniel and Viktor Orri Valgarðsson (2023): Stability and Change in Political Trust: Evidence and implications from six panel studies. In: European journal of Political Research, 63: pp. 478–497.*

*Gravel, John (2022): Learning by doing: The impact of experiencing democracy in education on political trust and participation. In: Politics 42(1): pp. 75–94.*

*Theuwis, Marie-Isabel, Carolien van Ham & Kristof Jacobs (2024): A meta-analysis of the effects of democratic innovations on participants' attitudes, behavior and capabilities. European Journal of Political Research. Online first.*

*van the Sea, Tom and Armen Hakhverdian (2017): Political trust as the evaluation of process and performance: A cross-national study of forty-two European democracies. In: Political Studies 65(1), pp. 81-102.*

*van the Sea, Tom W. G. (2017): Political Trust and the “Crisis of Democracy”. Online publication:* [*https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.77 .*](https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.77)

**A notice** : She find still more or more recent References in the corresponding Folder in teams.

1. **[30.04.] Political Legitimacy: Research I**

***literature to Preparation*** :

* + ***Literature suggestion from group 1:***

XXX noch einfügen XXX XXX noch einfügen XXX

* + ***Literature suggestion from group 2:***
  + ***Remaining group:*** van Ham, Caroline, Jacques Thomassen, Kees Art & Rudy Andeweg (2017): Myth and Reality of the Legitimacy Crisis: Explaining Trends and Cross-national differences in established democracies. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapters 1 & 11.

***planning the Meeting:***

* + ***group 1*** prepared the self-employed researched Literature suggestion on and presented
  + ***group 2*** prepared the self-employed researched Literature suggestion on and presented
  + ***Remaining group*** prepared mean Suggestion on and presented

1. **[07.05.] Political Legitimacy: Research II**

***literature to Preparation*** :

* + ***Literature suggestion from group 3:***

XXX noch einfügen XXX XXX noch einfügen XXX

* + ***Literature suggestion from group 4:***
  + ***Rest group:*** van Dijk, Lisa, Turkenburg, Emma and James Pow (2023): The perceived legitimacy of deliberative minipublics: taking the perspective of polarized citizens. In: European Political Science Review, 15(3), pp. 409-426.

***planning the Meeting:***

* + ***group 3*** prepared the self-employed researched Literature suggestion on and presented
  + ***group 4*** prepared the self-employed researched Literature suggestion on and presented
  + ***Remaining group*** prepared mean Suggestion on and presented

4 In later sessions, you will be able to read empirical studies. If you need guidance on reading and better understanding empirical studies, please contact me. The following book may also be helpful: Tausendpfund, Markus (2021): Reading Empirical Studies: Introduction to the Practice of Quantitative Social Research. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

* + **All** : distribution the Presentation topics and distribution the Discussants for the individual sessions.

1. **[14.05.] Political Legitimacy: Research III and Presentations I**

***literature to Preparation*** : XXX still insert XXX

***planning the Meeting:***

* + Common Text review
  + Presentations

1. **[21.05.] Political Legitimacy: Research IV and Units II**

***literature to Preparation*** : XXX still insert XXX

***planning the Meeting:***

* + Common Text review
  + Presentations

1. **[28.05.] Political Legitimacy: Summary and Presentations III**

***planning the Meeting:***

* + We superior us together, What we so already to new To know collected To prepare for the meeting, please review your previous notes
  + Presentations

**block III: Social polarization**

**Note:** Planning the third block of the seminar we, once we have seen how successful Block II run is. Gladly can She again Text suggestions contribute or we use again My suggestions. The overall structure will be similar to that of Block II: basic sessions, research literature, presentations.

1. **[04.06.]**
2. **[11.06.]**
3. **[18.06.]**
4. **[25.06.]**
5. **[02.07.]**
6. **[09.07.]**
7. **[16.07.]**

**Literature suggestions (to Inspiration):**

Borbáth, Endre, Hutter, Swen and Arndt Leininger (2023): Cleavage politics, polarization and participation in Western Europe. In: *West European Politics* , 46:4, pp. 631-651.

Harteveld, Eelco, Mendoza, Philipp and Matthijs Rooduijn (2022): Affective Polarization and the Populist Radical Right: Creating the Hating? In: *Government and Opposition* 57, pp. 703–727.

Reiljan, Andres (2020): 'Fear and loathing across party lines' (also) in Europe: Affective polarization in European party systems. In: *European Journal of Political Research* 59, pp. 376–396.

Strijbis, Oliver, Helmer, Joshua and Pieter de Wild (2020): A cosmopolitan–communitarian cleavage around the world? Evidence from ideological polarization and party–voter linkages. In: *Acta Politica* 55, pp. 408–431.

**A notice** : She find still more or more recent References in the corresponding Folder in teams.