

Name:	Prof. Mark Kayser
Professor of...	Applied Methods and Comparative Politics

Advisor Information

Office	2.54
E-Mail	kayser@hertie-school.org
Faculty Assistant	Dayna Sadow (sadow@hertie-school.org)
Office Hours	tba

Research & Advising Profile:

General Academic Field: What is your academic field, and what are your areas of supervision?

Mark Kayser teaches applied quantitative methods and comparative politics at the Hertie School in Berlin. His core research interests address the economic underpinnings of democracy, including populism, and the effect of electoral competition — both in elections and in coalition governments — on policy-making. He previously was an assistant professor of political science at the University of Rochester, a Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford and a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. He is the co-author of a book on the effect of electoral systems on regulation and price levels (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and the author or co-author of articles in the American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Political Analysis and other leading journals. He is a former recipient of the GESIS/Klingemann research award and former Senior Editor for Comparative Political Economy of the Oxford Research Encyclopedia. He currently serves on several advisory and editorial boards.

Specific Expertise: What is your specific area of expertise, and what topics are you supervising?

Mark Kayser's research generally centers on the economic underpinnings of democracy with a particular focus on elections, voter behavior, parties, and political economy. Questions about how well governments represent interests – and whose interests – and the extent of electoral accountability in democracies motivate much of his research. Current major projects focus on partisan responses to economic crisis, the electoral effects of media reporting of the economy, social mobility, populism, and the effect of electoral competitiveness on government responsiveness. View his research at www.mark-kayser.com to get a better idea of his interests.

Methodology: What methodologies and methods are you able to supervise?

Preferred methodology: observational or experimental statistics.

Supervision Style: Please include information on what your advisees can expect from you in terms of supervision format.

My role is to guide, but not co-author, your research. As such, I am happy to discuss outlines and colloquium presentations but I do not read drafts. Substantively, I believe that a thesis should include a thesis (really!). A surprising number of theses might more accurately be called topics. A thesis is a statement about a causal relationship or a normative argument. In the case of the former, you will be arguing that X causes Y and persuading your audience through careful research design, systematic (often logical and deductive) argumentation and empirical tests in an attempt to create knowledge. This can be a rewarding experience. I expect my supervisees to write a thesis, not a "topic."

Examples of Previously Supervised Thesis Topics: *(if applicable)*

- Polish People's Voting Reactions to Media Endorsements: Evidence from a survey experiment
- Globalization, Trade and Populism in Germany: Analyzing the Effects of Trade Exposure on Voting Behavior in the 2013 and 2017 German Federal Elections.
- Varieties of Capitalism revisited: Empirical Testing of Country Cluster Classifications and the Implications for Other Empirical Work
- Rebel Groups Turned Political Parties – Democratic Consolidation through Postwar Party System Institutionalization
- Improving Forecasting for Foreign Policy: Identifying drivers of accuracy in a forecasting tournament
- Does Political Instability Induce Election Violence?

Recommended General Readings: *(if applicable)*

- Geddes, Barbara. 2003. Paradigms and sand castles: Theory building and research design in comparative politics. University of Michigan Press.
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 1999. The Elements of Style. Tisot; 4th edition
- Kellstedt, Paul. M., & Whitten, Guy D. (2018). The fundamentals of political science research. Cambridge University Press.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an infringement of § 11 Good Academic Conduct, 2a: "Infringements of the standards of good academic conduct include for instance to use wordings, ideas or other intellectual work of others in an academic work without clearly indicating the author. The obligation to indicate the authorship of others shall apply irrespective of whether or not the sources used are protected by copyright" (See: Exam Rules, § 11 Good Academic Conduct for more information).

It is vital to keep track of your sources and to cite all material properly.

The Library will offer a session available to all students on resource management and proper citation.

Extra (individual) note on plagiarism

Attendance:

Students receive 8 ECTS for the Master's thesis colloquium. Attendance for supervision—whether in the form of a colloquium or an individual meeting—is compulsory. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in each session, and to adhere to deadlines set for assignments.

In case of an excused absence, students must notify their supervisor. Absence must be compensated with an additional assignment.

Students on an academic exchange programme in the Fall Semester should be given the opportunity of remote supervision.

Participation & Milestones:

See Colloquium Sessions Section

Colloquium & Meeting Information:

	Colloquium Dates	Session Title
Meeting times (suggested)	Session 1: 18.11.2020	From Topic to Thesis
	Session 2: 06.12.2020	Initial thesis statements & research design
	Session 3: 10.02.2021	Revised thesis statements & data availability
	Session 4: 02.03.2021	Initial results & literature
	Session 5: 30.03.2021	First cut presentation
	Session 6: 20.04.2021	Polished presentation

Colloquium Sessions:

Session 1: 18.11.2020	
From Topic to Thesis	
Aim	
Assignment (e.g. thesis proposal)	We will discuss your interests and possible thesis topics. Emphasis will be placed on identifying plausible projects with the potential to generate generalizable and substantively meaningful results.

Session 2: 06.12.2020	
Initial Thesis Statement and Research Design	
Aim	
Assignment (e.g. literature review)	Present an initial thesis statement and identify clearly falsifiable hypotheses that can be tested on available data.

Session 3: 10.02.2021 Revised Thesis Statement and Data Availability	
Aim	
Assignment (e.g. empirical findings)	Present a refined thesis statement incorporating earlier feedback. Also present descriptive statistics from the data needed for your empirical work as evidence of availability. Discuss relevant work in the literature and your potential value added to existing work.

Session 4: 02.03.2021 Initial Results and Literature	
Aim	
Assignment (e.g. first chapter)	Present initial models and results. Motivate in contrast to extant literature.

Session 5: 30.03.2021 First Cut Presentations	
Aim	
Assignment	Penultimate thesis presentation.

Session 6: 20.04.2021 Polished Presentations	
Aim	
Assignment	Final presentations