

Syllabus - Autumn 2022: Identity and politics – How are political attitudes, behaviour, and context shaped?

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Office Hours: Make an appointment via Doodle

Political science discusses the influence of identities on politics since the late 1960s. Most recent (public) debates on identity in politics surrounds identity politics, and it's polarizing mechanisms. Identities help people to categorize themselves and others, for this reason, identity will always play a role in politics and should be studied by political and social scientists. This seminar will explore identity and politics from a bottom-up and top-down perspective. The bottom-up perspective looks at individuals (political) identity development, how it shapes political beliefs and attitudes, and to what extent this influences political elites. Second, we explore identity and politics from top-down mainly focusing on how political actors and institutions use, influence, or even provide a political identity. Classical theoretical literature, mostly from socio-psychology, and recent developments in political attitudes and behavioural research will be covered throughout the semester. Contemporary political issues, such as climate change, will be addressed to apply theories and critically compare cases.

Language: This seminar will be held in English, but students may choose to submit written assignments in either English or German.

Recommended for: B.A. Politikwissenschaft, 3rd Semester

ECTS-Points: 5

Special Needs: If you require support in order to ensure your success in my course for any reason, please feel free to contact me! I will gladly make reasonable accommodation to facilitate a better learning experience for everyone.

Learning objectives

1. Understanding the role of identity - as a (political) determinant and outcome, its usage in political science and its limitations

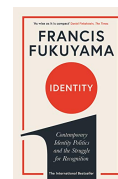


Figure 1: Fukuyama, Francis (2018). Identity: Contemporary Identity Politics and the Struggle for Recognition.

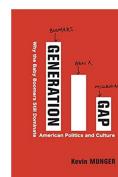


Figure 2: Munger, K. (2022). Gener-

2. Critical reading of scientific literature
 1. Understanding and criticising a theoretical argument
 2. Evaluating a research design (Do measurements fit a concept?
Could you imagine a better/different design? Did you understand the research design? If not how do you help yourself?)
 3. Interpret empirical results (from descriptive analysis to linear & logistic regressions)
3. Formulation and discussion of a theoretical argument

Requirements

All papers start with a blank page – and this blank page can be pretty scary. In this seminar, you will learn how to go from that blank page to a pre-registration version of a research paper. Ten short pitch presentations on scientific writing will be held by some of you to be a helpful source about creating your own research paper. In addition to introducing the topic, the required readings illustrate different theoretical approaches and research designs, serving as an inspiration for your own work. To better understand the (dis-)advantages that these different approaches and designs offer, and get a broader idea about the existing literature, we will have five group presentations on articles that are related to the compulsory literature. These presentations take 10-15 minutes and are accompanied by a Feedback group (whom also held a pitch presentation) and a written protocol. The Feedback group will give feedback on content presentation and style, and ask follow-up questions. One person will write a protocol of the group presentation which covers the content of the presentation and additional information from the literature or discussion if necessary. Finally, there are the discussion sessions at the end of the semester, where those students who've written handouts only will moderate a class discussion.

During the semester, you will develop (1) a research question, (2) a theoretical argument with corresponding hypotheses, and (3) a research design that would test your hypotheses. Thus, most of the work for your term paper will already be done at the end of the semester. To make sure that all of you achieve the best possible outcome, you will participate in a three-round peer review process.

- (1) In the first round, you will formulate your own research question and provide constructive feedback on two other students' research questions. In turn, you will receive feedback from me and two other students to help you improve your own research question.
- (2) In the second round, you will write a first draft of your theoretical argument and derive corresponding hypotheses, then review

another student's draft. Subsequently, you will receive constructive comments from me and another student on your own draft.

- (3) In the third round, you will write a first draft of your research design which builds on your previously developed theoretical argument, then review two other student's drafts. Subsequently, you will receive constructive comments from me and another student on your own draft.

At the end of the semester, you will submit a term paper which theoretically and empirically addresses an original research question. Since you will have already developed your research proposal, including the research question, theoretical argument, hypotheses, and research design, over the course of the seminar, the term paper is simply an extension of your proposal.

Assignments & Deadlines

Deadline	Submission
Tue, 11-10-22: 5pm	Research question for your term paper
Tue, 18-10-22: 5pm	Written feedback of another students research questions (150 -200 Words)
Tue, 08-11-22: 5pm	Summary of the theoretical argument to answer research question (2-4 pages + references)
Tue, 15-11-22: 5pm	Written feedback of another students theoretical argument (1/2 to 1 page)
Tue, 22-11-22: 5pm	Exposé (4-6 pages + references)
Wed, 30-11-22	Oral Feedback of another students submissions
Fri, 13-01-23: 5 pm	Term paper (4.500 words +/- 10%)

Additional information regarding the assignments can be found on the slides of Session 1.

Schedule

07-09-22 / Session 1 - Introduction & Welcome

Compulsory literature

Stets, J. E., & Burke, P. J. (2000). Identity Theory and Social Identity Theory. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 63(3), 224. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2695870>

Additional literature

Burke, P. J., & Stets, J. E. (2009). Bases of Identities: Role, Group, and Person. In *Identity Theory* (pp. 112–129). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195388275.001.0001>

Vignoles, V. L., Schwartz, S. J., & Luyckx, K. (2011). Introduction: Toward an Integrative View of Identity. In S. J. Schwartz, K. Luyckx, & V. L. Vignoles (Eds.), *Handbook of Identity Theory and Research* (pp. 1–27). Springer New York. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-7988-9_1

Hogg, M. A., Abrams, D., Otten, S., & Hinkle, S. (2004). The Social Identity Perspective: Intergroup Relations, Self-Conception, and Small Groups. *Small Group Research*, 35(3), 246–276. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1046496404263424>

14-09-22 / Session 2 - Me, myself and us

What motives do people have for seeking social identity?

Compulsory literature

Huddy, L. (2013). From Group Identity to Political Cohesion and Commitment. In L. Huddy, D. O. Sears, & J. S. Levy (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0023> (Read at least Section 1 & 2)

Hogg, M. A. (2007). Uncertainty–Identity Theory. *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, 39, 69–126. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0065-2601\(06\)39002-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0065-2601(06)39002-8)

Additional literature

Ellemers, N., Spears, R., & Doosje, B. (2002). Self and Social Identity. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 53(1), 161–186. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.53.100901.135228>

Vignoles, V. L. (2011). Identity Motives. In S. J. Schwartz, K. Luyckx, & V. L. Vignoles (Eds.), *Handbook of Identity Theory and Research* (pp. 403–432). Springer New York. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-7988-9_18

Hogg, M. A. (2021). Self-uncertainty and group identification: Consequences for social identity, group behavior, intergroup relations, and society. In *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* (Vol. 64, pp. 263–316). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.aesp.2021.04.004>

21-09-22 / Session 3 - Give me some commitment!

How is social identity developed?

Compulsory literature

Huddy, L. (2013). From Group Identity to Political Cohesion and Commitment. In L. Huddy, D. O. Sears, & J. S. Levy (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0023> (Read at least Section 5 & 6)

Huddy, L. (2001). From Social to Political Identity: A Critical Examination of Social Identity Theory. *Political Psychology*, 22(1), 127–156. <https://doi.org/10.1111/0162-895X.00230>

Additional literature

Hogg, M. A., & Abrams, D. (1988). Social identifications: A social psychology of intergroup relations and group processes. Taylor & Francis/Routledge. p.6-27.

Crocetti, E., Prati, F., & Rubini, M. (2018). The Interplay of Personal and Social Identity. *European Psychologist*, 23(4), 300–310. <https://doi.org/10.1027/1016-9040/a000336>

Tajfel, H., Billig, M. G., Bundy, R. P., & Flament, C. (1971). Social categorization and intergroup behaviour. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 1(2), 149–178. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2420010202>

Haslam, S. A. (1996). Stereotyping and social influence: Foundations of stereotype sharedness. R. Spears, PJ Oakes, N. Ellemers, & SA Haslam, *The social psychology of stereotyping and group life*. Oxford, UK & Cambridge, USA: Blackwell.

Jenkins, R. (2014). *Social identity*. Routledge.

28-09-22 / Session 4 - The lone wolf dies, but the pack survives.

How social identity becomes political?

Compulsory literature

Simon, B., & Klandermans, B. (2001). Politicized Collective Identity. *American Psychologist*, 56(4), 319–331. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.56.4.319>

Huddy, Leonie. 2013. “From Group Identity to Political Cohesion and Commitment.” In, edited by Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy, 2nd ed. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199760107.013.0023> (Read at least Section 3)

Presentation article

Polletta, F., & Jasper, J. M. (2001). Collective identity and social movements. *Annual review of Sociology*, 27(1), 283-305.

Additional literature

Davis, J. L., Love, T. P., & Fares, P. (2019). Collective Social Identity: Synthesizing Identity Theory and Social Identity Theory Using Digital Data. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 82(3), 254-273. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0190272519851025>

Devine, C. J. (2015). Ideological Social Identity: Psychological Attachment to Ideological In-Groups as a Political Phenomenon and a Behavioral Influence. *Political Behavior*, 37(3), 509-535. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-014-9280-6>

Mason, L. (2015). "I Disrespectfully Agree": The Differential Effects of Partisan Sorting on Social and Issue Polarization: PARTISAN SORTING AND POLARIZATION. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(1), 128-145. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12089>

05-10-22 / Session 5 - You can't sit with us.

How is identity related to political attitudes?

Compulsory literature

Hildebrandt, A., & Trüdinger, E.-M. (2021). Belonging and exclusion: The dark side of regional identity in Germany. *Comparative European Politics*, 19(2), 146-163. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41295-020-00230-5>

Presentation article

Lindstam, E., Mader, M., & Schoen, H. (2021). Conceptions of National Identity and Ambivalence towards Immigration. *British Journal of Political Science*, 51(1), 93-114. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123418000522>

Additional literature

Huynh, Q. L., Devos, T., & Altman, H. R. (2015). Boundaries of American Identity: Relations Between Ethnic Group Prototypicality and Policy Attitudes. *Political Psychology*, 36(4), 449-468.

Bonikowski, B., & DiMaggio, P. (2016). Varieties of American Popular Nationalism. *American Sociological Review*, 81(5), 949-980. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122416663683>

12-10-22 / Session 6 - Come together, right now, over me.

How (nested) identities can influence policy attitudes?

Compulsory literature

Transue, J. E. (2007). Identity Salience, Identity Acceptance, and Racial Policy Attitudes: American National Identity as a Uniting Force. *American Journal of Political Science*, 51(1), 78–91. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-5907.2007.00238.x>

Presentation article

Simonovits, G., & Kézdi, G. (2016). Economic Hardship Triggers Identification with Disadvantaged Minorities. *The Journal of Politics*, 78(3), 882–892. <https://doi.org/10.1086/685586>

Additional literature

Charnysh, V., Lucas, C., & Singh, P. (2015). The ties that bind: National identity salience and pro-social behavior toward the ethnic other. *Comparative political studies*, 48(3), 267–300.

19-10-22 / Session 7 - I identify therefore I vote.

To what extent does identity shape citizens voting behaviour?

Compulsory literature

Bergh, J., & Bjørklund, T. (2011). The Revival of Group Voting: Explaining the Voting Preferences of Immigrants in Norway. *Political Studies*, 59(2), 308–327. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9248.2010.00863.x>

Presentation article

Houle, C., Kenny, P. D., & Park, C. (2018). The Structure of Ethnic Inequality and Ethnic Voting. *The Journal of Politics*, 81(1), 187–200. <https://doi.org/10.1086/700200>

Additional literature

Ben-Bassat, A., & Dahan, M. (2012). Social identity and voting behavior. *Public Choice*, 151, 193–214. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11127-010-9742-2>

Goodyear-Grant, E., & Tolley, E. (2017). Voting for ones own: Racial group identification and candidate preferences. *Politics, Groups,*

and Identities, 7(1), 131–147. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2017.1338970>

Egan, P. J. (2012). Group Cohesion without Group Mobilization: The Case of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals. *British Journal of Political Science*, 42, 597–616. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123411000500>

26-10-22 / Session 8 - On Wednesdays we wear pink.

Political actors' usage of identity.

Compulsory literature

Hart, P. S., & Nisbet, E. C. (2012). Boomerang Effects in Science Communication: How Motivated Reasoning and Identity Cues Amplify Opinion Polarization About Climate Mitigation Policies. *Communication Research*, 39(6), 701–723. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093650211416646>

Presentation article

Thau, M. (2021). The Social Divisions of Politics: How Parties' Group-Based Appeals Influence Social Group Differences in Vote Choice. *The Journal of Politics*, 83(2), 675–688. <https://doi.org/10.1086/710018>

Additional literature

Bonilla, T., & Tillery, A. B. (2020). Which Identity Frames Boost Support for and Mobilization in the #BlackLivesMatter Movement? An Experimental Test. *American Political Science Review*, 114(4), 947–962. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055420000544>

02-11-22 / Session 9 - The identity has awoken, its heard its master's call.

Political environments changing identity.

Compulsory literature

Jardina, A., Kalmoe, N., & Gross, K. (2021). Disavowing White Identity: How Social Disgust can Change Social Identities. *Political Psychology*, 42(4), 619–636. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12717>

Presentation literature

Egan, P. J. (2020). Identity as Dependent Variable: How Americans Shift Their Identities to Align with Their Politics. *American Journal*

of Political Science, 64(3), 699–716. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12496>

Additional literature

Boyer, M. M., & Lecheler, S. (2022). Social mobility or social change? How different groups react to identity-related news. *European Journal of Communication*, 026732312211051. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02673231221105168>

Wojcieszak, M., & Garrett, R. K. (2018). Social Identity, Selective Exposure, and Affective Polarization: How Priming National Identity Shapes Attitudes Toward Immigrants Via News Selection. *Human Communication Research*, 44(3), 247–273. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqx010>

09-11-22 / Session 10 - It's all a matter of context...

Compulsory literature

Mason, L. (2018). Ideologues without Issues: The Polarizing Consequences of Ideological Identities. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 82(S1), 866–887. <https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfy005>

Additional literature

Iyengar, S., & Westwood, S. J. (2015). Fear and Loathing across Party Lines: New Evidence on Group Polarization. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(3), 690–707. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12152>

Reiljan, A. (2020). 'Fear and loathing across party lines' (also) in Europe: Affective polarisation in European party systems. *European Journal of Political Research*, 59(2), 376–396. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12351>

16-11-22 / Session 11 - ...or design?

Compulsory literature

Bankert, A., Huddy, L., & Rosema, M. (2017). Measuring Partisanship as a Social Identity in Multi-Party Systems. *Political Behavior*, 39(1), 103–132. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-016-9349-5>

Additional literature

Abdelal, R., Herrera, Y. M., Iain Johnston, A., & McDermott, R. (2009). Identity as a Variable. In R. Abdelal, Y. M. Herrera, A. I. Johnston, & R. McDermott (Eds.), *Measuring Identity* (1st ed.,

pp. 17–32). Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CB09780511810909.002>

23-11-22 / Session 12 - Identity is the problem of today's democracies!

Compulsory literature

Group A:

Iyengar, S., & Krupenkin, M. (2018). Partisanship as Social Identity; Implications for the Study of Party Polarization. *The Forum*, 16(1), 23–45. <https://doi.org/10.1515/for-2018-0003>

Group B: Klar, S., Krupnikov, Y., & Ryan, J. B. (2018). Affective Polarization or Partisan Disdain? *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 82(2), 379–390. <https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfy014>

Additional literature

Achen, C. H., & Bartels, L. M. (2017). *Democracy for realists: Why elections do not produce responsive government: with a new afterword by the authors*. Princeton University Press.


Praet, S., Guess, A. M., Tucker, J. A., Bonneau, R., & Nagler, J. (2022). What's Not to Like? Facebook Page Likes Reveal Limited Polarization in Lifestyle Preferences. *Political Communication*, 39(3), 311–338. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2021.1994066>

Fukuyama, F. (2018). Against identity politics: the new tribalism and the crisis of democracy. *Foreign Aff.*, 97, 90.

Bernstein, M. (2005). Identity Politics. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 31(1), 47–74. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.soc.29.010202.100054>

30-11-22 / Week 13 - Peer-review session

Read and note review comments on your groups exposés.

Some help on how to be a good peer reviewer:  [How to Write Effective Peer Review Comments](#)

07-12-22 / Week 14 - But does identity matter, or did we just discuss a trendy term?

For successful participation you earn 5 ECTS-Credits

which equals a total workload of 150 hours:

Units	Description	Hours per unit	Total hours
14	Class participation	1.5	21.0
13	Preparation of substantive sessions	2.5 - 3.0	36.5
1	Preparation of a group presentation or equivalent	8.0	8.0
4	Preparation of feedback	1.5	6.0
1	Preparation and writing of the term paper (This includes all submissions during the semester that support the final term paper.)	80.0	80.0