



Syllabus - Autumn 2024: Identity and politics

Autumn 2024 | Wed, 10:15 - 11:45 pm | A5 6, Entrance C, C 112

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 A5 6, Entrance B, A328



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Office Hours:  Book an appointment

In this seminar, we will dive into how our sense of self shapes our political beliefs and actions, and how identity plays a crucial role in shaping societies. Since the late 1960s, political science has recognized the profound influence of identities on politics, making it an essential subject for both political and social scientists to study. We will explore this complex relationship by covering classical theoretical literature from socio-psychology and political science on identity and politics. Firstly, we will establish a shared foundation for our journey through identity politics by examining the concept of (social) identity. We will explore classical and recent literature to understand the relationship between identity and politics using interactive discussions and thought-provoking exercise to apply them on contemporary political issues. We are aiming to not only learn about the current state of identity research, but also to improve your academic skills through academic writing exercises during the semester. Active Participation in class exercises, as well as assignments, is thus recommended for a successful learning experience.

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. Political Science, 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. Please contact me at the beginning of the semester in such cases.

Learning objectives

1. Understanding the role of identity - as a (political) determinant and outcome, its usage in political science and its limitations.
2. Critical reading of scientific literature
 1. Understanding and criticising a theoretical argument
 2. Evaluating a research design
 3. Interpret empirical results
3. Formulation and discussion of a theoretical argument and hypotheses
4. Formulation and discussion of a research design

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. 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 on the one hand side discuss the compulsory literature approaches. On the other hand we will hear five group presentations on articles that are related to the compulsory literature of one session. These presentations take 10 minutes and are accompanied by a follow-up discussion. Most sessions will start or end with quizzes about the compulsory literature.

During the semester, you will develop (1) a research question, a theoretical argument with corresponding hypotheses, and (2) 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 two-round peer review process.

- (1) In the first round, you will formulate your own research question and write a first draft of your theoretical argument and derive corresponding hypotheses.
- (2) In the second round, you will write a first draft of your research design which builds on your previously developed theoretical argument. Subsequently, you will give and receive constructive comments from two other students on your own draft during the Peer-Review Session.

At the end of the semester, you will submit a term paper which theoretically and empirically addresses an original research question related to identity and politics. Since you will have already developed at least an outline of 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.

Beyond the preparation of your term paper, we will practise literature research during the semester. Each student has to submit an annotated bibliography. In class you'll have the opportunity to control your reading competence with exercises like literature quizzes. For Session 7, group presentations have to be prepared and presented. Additionally, there will be two more creative, non-scientific exercises, where every student

has to show their understanding via Meme's. At the end of the semester, we will have a class discussion where each student has to prepare their arguments in advance.

To pass the seminar, all partial performances must be graded at least "sufficient". The submission of the tasks, the exposé and the timely preparation of the analysis are prerequisites for admission to the seminar paper and the acquisition of ECTS points. Texts are mostly available via the links on the syllabus (you need to access most via University VPN). Texts which are not accessible online and assignments are available via the internet platform ILIAS. You can register for the ILIAS group directly from the [student portal](#). If necessary, messages about the event will also be sent via ILIAS. Please note that all messages will be sent to your university address (xxxx@students.uni-mannheim.de). Therefore, please check this address regularly.

Assignments & Deadlines

Deadline	Submission
Tue, 17-09-24: 1 pm	Meme-Challenge
Tue, 08-10-24: 1 pm	Annotated Bibliography
Tue, 15-10-24: 1 pm	Outline theoretical argument to answer research question (1-2 pages + references)
Tue, 29-10-24: 1 pm	Submission Presentation slides
Tue, 12-11-24: 1 pm	News Article Adaptation
Tue, 12-11-24: 1 pm	Exposé (2-4 pages + references)
Wed, 20-11-24: 10 am	Preparation Feedback Session
Wed, 27-11-24: 10 am	Preparation Discussion Session
Wed, 15-01-25: 5 pm	Term paper (4.000 words +/- 10%)

Meme Challenge (Creative Task)

- Find or create a Meme that illustrates a concept or relationship from the compulsory literature of Session 4.

Annotated Bibliography

- Collect 5 articles, chapters or books that are related to your preliminary term paper subject.
- The aim is to review literature on a particular subject, summarizing the main arguments and findings of each source.
- Note why the literature is useful for your research. E.g.: Is it fundamental for your theoretical argument? Does it help with deciding on a research design? Does it show limitations that you have to consider?

Outline theoretical argument to answer research question

- 1-2 pages + references
- Formulate a research question that you want to answer in your term paper.
 - related to social identity and politics
- Outline a theoretical argument that potentially answers your research question.

- Derive (max. 3) hypotheses from your theoretical argument.

News Article Adaptation (Creative Task)

- Write a short (250-500 words) news article that adapts the findings of one of the compulsory literature of Session 11.
- Don't forget the Headline!

Exposé

- 2-4 pages + references
- Revised version of your theoretical argument outline with an additional research design section
 - What data set will be used?
 - What are the variables and how are they measured?
 - What method(s) will be used to test hypotheses?

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

Schedule

04-09-2024 | 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>

Weiner, S., & Tatum, D. S. (2021). Rethinking Identity in Political Science. *Political Studies Review*, 19(3), 464–481. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1478929920919360>

11-09-2024 | 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>

18-09-2024 | 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)

Tajfel, H. (1981). *Human groups and social categories: Studies in social psychology*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 12.

Additional literature

Scheepers, D., & Ellemers, N. (2005). When the pressure is up: The assessment of social identity threat in low and high status groups. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 41(2), 192–200. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2004.06.002>

Hogg, M. A., & Abrams, D. (1988). Social identifications: A social psychology of intergroup relations and group processes. Taylor & Frances/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.

25-09-2024 | Session 4 | *The lone wolf dies, but the pack survives. - How social identity becomes political?*

Compulsory literature

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)

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, 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

Klandermans, P. G. (2014). Identity Politics and Politicized Identities: Identity Processes and the Dynamics of Protest. *Political Psychology*, 35(1), 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12167>

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>

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

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>

Greene, S. (2004). Social Identity Theory and Party Identification. *Social Science Quarterly*, 85(1), 136–153. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0038-4941.2004.08501010.x>

02-10-2024 | 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>

Additional literature

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>

Malka, A., & Lelkes, Y. (2010). More than Ideology: Conservative–Liberal Identity and Receptivity to Political Cues. *Social Justice Research*, 23, 156–188. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11211-010-0114-3>

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>

09-10-2024 | Session 6 | *Come together, right now, over me. - How (nested) identities can influence policy attitudes?*

Compulsory literature

Zaller, J. (1992). The nature and origins of mass opinion. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511818691.004>

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>

Additional literature

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>

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.

16-10-2024 | Session 7 | *One ring to represent them all - Groups and their representation*

Compulsory literature

Pitkin, H. F. (1967). The concept of representation. University of California Press. Chapter XY.

Banducci, S. A., Donovan, T., & Karp, J. A. (2004). Minority Representation, Empowerment, and Participation. *The Journal of Politics*, 66(2), 534–556. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2508.2004.00163.x>

Additional literature

Gerring, J., Jerzak, C. T., & Öncel, E. (2023). The Composition of Descriptive Representation. *American Political Science Review*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423000680>

Wolak, J. (2020). Descriptive Representation and the Political Engagement of Women. *Politics & Gender*, 16(2), 339–362. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X18000910>

Hayes, M., & Hibbing, M. V. (2017). The Symbolic Benefits of Descriptive and Substantive Representation. *Political Behavior*, 39, 31–50. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-016-9345-9>

23-10-2024 | Session 8 | *I identify therefore I vote. - Does identity shape citizens voting behaviour? (Presentation Session)*

Compulsory literature

Campbell, A., Converse, P. E., Miller, W. E., & Stokes, D. E. (1980). *The American voter* (Unabridged ed). University of Chicago Press. (Chapter 4 - Partisan Choice)

Presentation 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>

Sevi, S. (2021). Do young voters vote for young leaders? *Electoral Studies*, 69, 102200. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2020.102200>

Arnesen, S., Duell, D., & Johannesson, M. P. (2019). Do citizens make inferences from political candidate characteristics when aiming for substantive representation? *Electoral Studies*, 57, 46–60. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2018.10.005>

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

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>

Campbell, R., & Heath, O. (2017). Do Women Vote for Women Candidates? Attitudes toward Descriptive Representation and Voting Behavior in the 2010 British Election. *Politics & Gender*, 13(02), 209–231. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X16000672>

30-10-2024 | Session 9 | *On Wednesdays we wear pink. - How do elites use social identity?*

Compulsory literature

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

Huber, L. M., & Dolinsky, A. O. (2023). How parties shape their relationship with social groups: A roadmap to the study of group-based appeals [Preprint]. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/szaqw>

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>

Funk, K. D., & Hinojosa, M. (2023). Descriptive Presentation: Invoking Identity as a Claim for Descriptive Representation. *Politics & Gender*, 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X22000563>

06-11-2024 | Session 10 | *The identity has awoken, its heard its master's call. - How public actors shape social identity?*

Compulsory literature

Scheufele, D. A. (2000). Agenda-Setting, Priming, and Framing Revisited: Another Look at Cognitive Effects of Political Communication. *Mass Communication and Society*, 3(2–3), 297–316. https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327825MCS0323_07

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>

Additional 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>

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>

Bruter, M. (2009). Time Bomb?: The Dynamic Effect of News and Symbols on the Political Identity of European Citizens. *Comparative Political Studies*, 42(12), 1498–1536. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414009332465>

13-11-2024 | Session 11 | *The world is changed. I feel it in the water. I feel it in the earth. I smell it in the air. - Context 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>

Additional 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>

20-11-2024 | Session 12 | *Nobody goes off-trail. And nobody walks alone! (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](#)

27-11-2024 | Session 13 | *Identity is the problem of today's democracies! (Discussion Session)*

There is no compulsory literature for this session. Yet, you need to do some research and prepare good arguments that are based on some actual facts for the discussion.

04-12-2024 | Week 14 | *Tying Up Loose Ends - Wrap-Up, Feedback and Farewell*