

# Party Competition in Western Europe

## Introduction

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## About me

### Mirko Wegemann (he/him)

- Since October 2024: Research Associate in the Department of Comparative Politics (Prof. Daniel Bischof)
- Previously: PhD Candidate at the European University Institute in Florence
- Research interests
  - Political parties
  - Political communication
  - Political culture of gender roles

## Tell me a bit about yourself...

A small survey:

<https://pingo.coactum.de/events/651337/>



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- Accessing different data sources to analyse quantitative patterns
- Developing your own original research questions and communicating it to your peers

## Timetable I

- Week 1 Introduction
  - Week 2 Concepts
  - Week 3 Cleavages and Partisan Realignment
  - Week 4 Polarization
  - Week 5 Changing Contexts
  - Week 6 Roundtable [Demand Side]
  - Week 7 Issue Competition
  - Week 8 Parties' Identity Appeals

## Timetable II

- Week 9 Entrepreneurs and Mainstream Parties
  - Week 10 No Session
  - Week 11 Roundtable [Supply Side]
  - Week 12 No Session
  - Week 13 Electoral Systems
  - Week 14 Legislatures
  - Week 15 Your Projects

Every week, there are two readings (except for session 1, 3, 13 and 15)!

## Course Infrastructure

- Communication and literature via Learnweb (please check your mails, password: **pcwe\_25**)
    - Literature research via ULB Münster, Google Scholar, or Web of Science
    - Access to most articles via the WiFi network of the University of Münster, from home via VPN
    - For an intro into the university library: Library Audiotour
  - Slides on my website

# Requirements I

## Workload

*One ECTS point represents max. 30 actual hours of real workload by the student.<sup>1</sup>*

Example calculation:

$$\rightarrow 30 \times 7 = 210 \text{ hours}$$

Participation in the course:

$$1.5 \times 13 = 19.5 \text{ hours}$$

Preparation and follow-up of the course + term paper

$$210 - 19.5 = 190.5 \text{ hours}$$

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<sup>1</sup> Recht.NRW

## Requirements II

- Regular attendance and participation
- Prior engagement with the session literature
- Submission of three questions on the literature in two different sessions
- Essay and roundtable participation
- Term paper on your own research project

## Requirements III

- *Studienleistungen*: Questions about the literature **and** essay + roundtable participation
- *Prüfungsleistung*: Term paper

# Partial requirements 1 |

Engagement with session literature and questions

For all sessions

- read and engage with the session literature in advance
- make notes
- raise questions whenever something remained unclear

# Partial requirements 1 II

Engagement with session literature and questions

For two sessions of your choice

- develop three questions on the session literature (on one or more readings)
- questions should go beyond clarification questions; rather questions about the consistency of an argument, the chosen design or possible implications of the research
- each of the questions should be briefly elaborated
- submit on **Monday, 23:59 before the session**

# Partial requirements 1 III

Engagement with session literature and questions

- in the session, we'll often do group work on the readings in which you serve as a moderator for your own questions (so you need to show up!)
- submission not possible for sessions 1, 2, 6, 11 and 15

## Partial requirements 2 |

Essay and roundtable sessions

As part of your ‘Studienleistung’, you are asked to write and present an essay.

- the essay should be max. 3 pages (12 font size, 1 1/2 spacing, 2.5cm margins)
- you can write your essay on voters or parties
- the topics are given
- you should substantiate the argument you develop with at least one descriptive graph/table

## Partial requirements 2 II

### Essay and roundtable sessions

You have to submit your essay by Monday, 23:59, in the week of the roundtable discussions. During the roundtable sessions...

- you serve as an **expert** if you submitted an essay
  - as an expert, you need to briefly present the argument you make in your essay (max 3 minutes) and reply from questions by the audience
- you serve as a **commentator** if you did not submit an essay
  - As a commentator, you'll be assigned to read one of the essays in preparation to the roundtable session and discuss it during the session
  - You are asked to raise questions in the session

As there are two roundtable sessions, you'll be assigned to the roles of both expert and commentator once.

# Partial requirements 3 |

## Term paper

- if you need to submit a *Prüfungsleistung*, you are asked to submit a term paper by **30 September 2025** at the latest
- length: **6,000 words**  $\pm$  10 percent (excluding table of contents, bibliography, and cover page)
- Choose your own topic, develop research hypotheses and propose an empirical design strategy
- Standard format of an empirical paper: Introduction (incl. research question and motivation), literature review, theory section (incl. hypothesis development), case selection, data and method, conclusion → you are **not** required to present a complete analysis but need to present some descriptive evidence that helps to test your argument

# Partial requirements 3 II

## Term paper

- Pay attention to the correct citation style (guidelines, for example, here); Training on Zotero can be requested at the University Library
- Submission as a .pdf-file

# Plagiarism I

*"The act of plagiarism is fulfilled when in written study and examination performances "texts of third parties are taken in whole or in part, literally or nearly literally, and presented as one's own scholarly work." This practice "not only contradicts good scientific practice, but it is also a form of intellectual theft and thus a violation of copyright."*

*IfPol: Resolution by the German Association of University Professors and Lecturers*

## Plagiarism II

There are different **types of plagiarism**

- Plagiarism of whole work
- Citation without proper referencing
- Translation plagiarism
- Self plagiarism
- Ghostwriting

In case there is any suspicion of plagiarism, we will check the submission with the plagiarism detection *Turnitin*.

## On the use of AI I

AI tools have facilitated various aspects of our lives. Can we use them in this seminar? **Yes.**

- be transparent about the use of AI
- *Be the human in the loop:* AI output depends on its input; bad input = bad output
- if AI is hallucinating, you'll be responsible for it
- I cannot accept output which is entirely written by AI
- useful tools:
  - **Chat:** Uni-GPT, Mistral AI, Duck AI
  - **Research:** Elicit, Consensus, Connected Papers, Research Rabbit

## On the use of AI II

And, in general, in and outside the seminar:

- Take an AI vacation day. Before prompting anything to AI, how would you approach the research topic? Read the literature, write down notes, sketch a potential research question and your expectations about it.

## Inclusion

We want to establish an open and inclusive culture in this seminar.

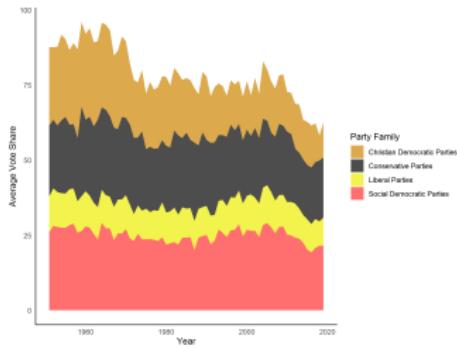
- Less relevant in English, but gender-sensitive language is used whenever possible in seminar communication
  - Studies on why it is useful to break the generic masculine: Tavits and Pérez (2019) and Vervecken, Hannover, and Wolter (2013)
- You are welcome to share your pronouns.
- There is no place for racism, sexism, homo- or transphobia here.
- We learn together: all types questions are legitimate and welcomed, and knowledge gaps are no reason to feel ashamed.

## Contact me

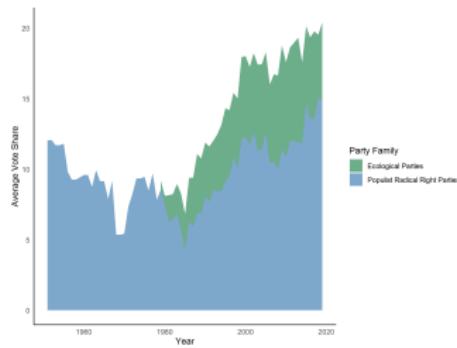
- After the seminar or during office hours (by prior email registration)
- Email: [m.wegemann@uni-muenster.de](mailto:m.wegemann@uni-muenster.de)
- Address  
Institute of Political Science  
Department: Comparative Politics  
Room: 223, Scharnhorststr. 100  
48151 Münster
- Feedback via Google Forms or by email

# Any further questions?

# The Transformation of Western party systems



(a) Mainstream



(b) 'Challengers'

Figure: Vote Share of Different Party Families in Western Europe, own visualization

What has changed?

# Maybe it's the voter?

## Changing coalitions

- Do working class voters still vote for Social Democrats?
- Is religion still important for Christian Democratic voters?
- Which social groups support the Greens? Who's in favour of the radical right?

# Maybe it's the voter? II

## Growing Divides

**Table 3.** Prejudice against the other side

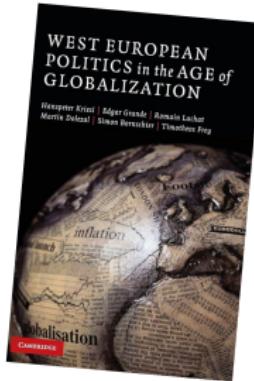
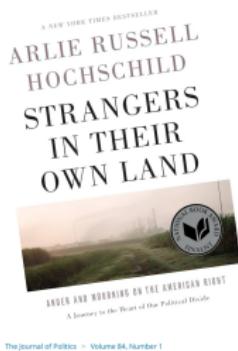
|   | Party identity   |            | Brexit identity |              |
|---|------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
|   | Conservative (%) | Labour (%) | Leaver (%)      | Remainer (%) |
| <b>Happy with child marrying other side</b>   |                  |            |                 |              |
| YouGov – September 2017                       | 24               | 19         | 45              | 30           |
| Sky – October/November 2017                   | 25               | 16         | 36              | 23           |
| <b>Happy to talk politics with other side</b> |                  |            |                 |              |
| YouGov – September 2017                       | 43               | 46         | 56              | 58           |
| Sky – October/November 2017                   | 53               | 41         | 51              | 47           |

Note: the YouGov data have a total unweighted *N* of 3,326. The Sky data have a total unweighted *N* of 1,692 for party identity and 1,702 for Brexit identity.

Concerning?

# Maybe it's the voter? III

## The fate of the left behind?



Neither Left Behind nor Superstar: Ordinary Winners of Digitalization at the Ballot Box

Aina Gallego, Thomas Kurer, and Nikolas Schöll

Who win's, who loses from globalization and modernization?

## Or the parties?

- Which role do parties and their campaigns play for the changing political landscape in Europe?
- Is there an increasing thirst for issue competition? If yes, which issues are politicized?
- Or do parties rather appeal to (different) groups than before?
- How do the established parties react vis-à-vis the newcomers?

# Challenging vote-party linkages



Figure: Campaign poster by the German AfD

# New coalitions?



Figure: Coalition talks in Austria

## Don't forget the institutions!



Figure: Ballot design in Hamburg

## To prepare for next week... I

- Reading of the syllabus
  - Is there anything missing?
  - Do you have additional literature suggestions? Or would you prefer to switch some of the main/complementary readings?
  - Do you have any further questions about the seminar requirements?

# To prepare for next week... II

- Readings:
  - Main readings
    1. Kitschelt H (July 2011) Party Systems. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*. Ed. by R Goodin. Oxford University Press, 0. ISBN: 978-0-19-960445-6. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199604456.013.0030
  - Complementary readings
    1. Vries CED et al. (2021) Political Parties. *Foundations of European Politics*. Oxford University Press. Chap. Foundations of European Politics, 132–154. ISBN: 978-0-19-186925-9
    2. King G, Keohane RO, and Verba S (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research, New Edition*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-0-691-22464-0

## To prepare for next week... III

3. Kellstedt PM and Whitten GD (2018) *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. 3rd ed. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1-108-13170-4 978-1-316-64267-2. DOI: 10.1017/9781108131704

Thank you for your attention!  
Any further questions?

## Literature I

-  **Katz R (2020)** *Political Parties*. Oxford University Press, 2020.  
Chap. Comparative Politics, 231–251.
-  **Kellstedt PM and Whitten GD (2018)** *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. 3rd ed. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
-  **King G, Keohane RO, and Verba S (1994)** *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research, New Edition*. Princeton University Press, 1994.
-  **Kitschelt H (2011)** Party Systems. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*. Ed. by R Goodin. Oxford University Press, 2011, 0.
-  **Tavits M and Pérez EO (2019)** Language Influences Mass Opinion toward Gender and LGBT Equality. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **116** (34), 16781–16786.

## Literature II

-  **Vervecken D, Hannover B, and Wolter I (2013)** Changing (S)Expectations: How Gender Fair Job Descriptions Impact Children's Perceptions and Interest Regarding Traditionally Male Occupations. *Journal of Vocational Behavior* **82** (3), 208–220.
-  **Vries CED et al. (2021)** Political Parties. *Foundations of European Politics*. Oxford University Press, 2021. Chap. Foundations of European Politics, 132–154.