



**University of
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Pre-Research Seminar: [615-501b](#) Autumn Term 2019

Political Representation and Policy Preferences

Last update: September 22, 2019

Term: Autumn term 2019
Time: Tuesday, 16:15–18:00
Room: [AFL-F-172/173](#) (Affolternstr. 56)
ECTS: 6

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Course Content

When do political parties fulfil or break election promises? How can researchers and citizens identify political promises? How does pledge fulfilment relate to theories of political representation? And why do parties and politicians change their positions? These questions will be discussed in this pre-research seminar. First, we revisit classic theories of representation and policy-making. Afterwards, we turn to the definition and measurement of public opinion, different styles of representation, and the concepts of responsiveness and congruence. Based on these theoretical foundations, we analyse party competition as well as salience and latent policy positions. We also discuss and apply to text-as-data methods, and revisit some of the most important aspects for designing a research project. This pre-research seminar is aimed at students who would like to attend the seminar together with the research seminar in the spring term 2020 as a one-year course.

Details

- Pre-Research Seminar (Autumn term 2019); Research seminar (Spring term 2020)
- Language: English
- Grading: Weekly wiki posts about course literature: 90%; Outline of research proposal: 10%

Learning Outcomes

1. Extensive knowledge of central theories of representation, the mandate model of democracy, and party competition.

2. Detailed insights into past and current approaches to study questions about pledge fulfilment, party positions, responsiveness and issue ownership.
3. Critical reading and discussing complex academic literature and diverse methodological approaches.
4. Planning and writing a research design which forms the basis of the empirical research paper (Forschungsarbeit), to be written in the second part of the module (FS 2020).

Introductory Readings

The seminar does not build on a single text book, but relies mostly on papers and chapters of books. For a general overview of the course content, I recommend the following books:

- G. Bingham Powell (2000). *Elections as Instruments of Democracy: Majoritarian and Proportional Visions*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Russell J. Dalton, David M. Farrell, and Ian McAllister (2011). *Political Parties and the Democratic Linkage: How Parties Organize Democracy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Michael Gallagher, Michael Laver, and Peter Mair (2011). *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. 5th edition. Maidenhead: McGraw-Hill.
- Andrea Volkens, Judith Bara, Ian Budge, Michael D. McDonald, and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. (2013). *Mapping Policy Preferences From Texts: Statistical Solutions for Manifesto Data Analysts*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Technical Background and Prerequisites

The course requires good knowledge of general approaches and theories of political science and basic prior knowledge with research design and quantitative methods. The following books provide very good introductions to empirical research designs and applied quantitative methods.

Research Design and Quantitative Methods

- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- John Gerring (2001). *Social Science Methodology: A Critical Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kosuke Imai (2017). *Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Hadley Wickham and Garrett Grolemund (2017). *R for Data Science: Import, Tidy, Transform, Visualize, and Model Data*. Sebastopol: O'Reilly.
- Frank E Jr Harrell (2019). *Glossary of Statistical Terms*. URL: <https://hbiostat.org/doc/glossary.pdf>.

Academic Writing

- Stephen B. Heard (2016). *The Scientist's Guide to Writing: How to Write More Easily and Effectively Throughout Your Scientific Career*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Syllabus Modification Rights

I reserve the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time by adjusting the reading list to keep pace with the course schedule. Moreover, I may change the content of specific sessions depending on the participants' prior knowledge and research interests.

Expectations and Grading

- Students must read all papers or chapters assigned under **Mandatory Readings**. I also add optional readings which can be used as additional evidence for the weekly wiki posts or serve as a preparation for the empirical research paper.
- Students will upload weekly wiki posts at OLAT. These posts are comparable to response papers. Each post (between 500 and 750 words) should *critically* discuss the required readings for the respective session. The post must be submitted at last 3 (!) hours before the start of the seminar session. Students should *not* merely summarise the readings, but discuss weaknesses – either by comparing the papers critically or by making suggestions on how to improve the theory, data, or methods. The posts are supposed to encourage students to think critically about the readings. Students must submit at least 9 posts with passable quality, but have two ‘jokers’: students can submit up to 11 posts and the 2 posts with the lowest grades will not count towards the final grade. More information on the posts will be provided during the course. The nine posts can be written in English or German and count towards 90% of the grade.
- Students will submit an outline of the empirical research paper. This outline counts towards 10% of the final grade and will present a testable research question, theoretical expectations, the dependent variable, a preliminary overview of the data to be collected or analysed for the Forschungsarbeit, and a description of the methodological approach. The outline can be written in English or German, and must be submitted before **December 13, 2019 (8:00pm CET)**. Concrete information on the length of the outline will be provided in class. In spring term 2020, students will submit a more concrete research design and the final research paper. Additional information on the research design and research paper will be provided at the beginning of spring term 2020.

Course Structure (Autumn Term 2019)

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Week 1: Organisation and Introduction (September 17, 2019)

- Expectations
- Discussion of syllabus
- Initial information on wiki posts, the outline of the research proposal, and the second term

Week 2: Parties and Party Systems (September 24, 2019)

- What are political parties?
- How have political parties evolved over time?
- What constitutes a party system?

Mandatory Readings

- Nick Clarke, Will Jennings, Jonathan Moss, and Gerry Stoker (2018). *The Good Politician: Folk Theories, Political Interaction, and the Rise of Anti-Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: ch. 1.

- Arend Lijphart (2012). *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. 2nd edition. New Haven: Yale University Press: ch. 1–3.

Week 3: Mandate Model of Democracy (October 1, 2019)

- What is the ‘democratic mandate’?
- How we measure campaign promises/pledges?
- Do parties fulfil their promises?

Mandatory Readings

- Bernard Manin, Adam Przeworski, and Susan C. Stokes (1999). “Elections and Representation”. *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Ed. by Adam Przeworski, Susan C. Stokes, and Bernard Manin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 29–54.
- Robert Thomson, Terry J. Royed, Elin Naurin, Joaquín Artés, Rory Costello, Laurenz Ennsner-Jedenastik, Mark Ferguson, Petia Kostadinova, Catherine Moury, François Pétry, and Katrin Praprotnik (2017). “The Fulfillment of Parties’ Election Pledges: A Comparative Study on the Impact of Power Sharing”. *American Journal of Political Science* 61 (3): 527–542.

Week 4: Measuring Public Opinion (October 7, 2019)

- What is public opinion?
- How can we measure public opinion?
- What are advantages and shortcomings of different survey instruments?

Mandatory Readings

- Peverill Squire (1988). “Why the 1936 Literary Digest Poll Failed”. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 52 (1): 125–133.
- Adam J. Berinsky (2017). “Measuring Public Opinion with Surveys”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 20: 309–329.

Optional

- Dennis Chong and James N. Druckman (2007). “Framing Public Opinion in Competitive Democracies”. *American Political Science Review* 101 (4): 637–655.

Week 5: Politicians: Trustees or Delegates? (October 15, 2019)

- What roles do politicians take during campaigns and in office?
- What are differences between the trustee and delegate model of representation? What type of representation is preferable?

Mandatory Readings

- Wolfgang C. Müller, Torbjörn Bergman, and Kaare Strøm (2006). “Parliamentary Democracy: Promise and Problems”. *Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary Democracies*. Ed. by Kaare Strøm, Wolfgang C. Müller, and Torbjörn Bergman. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 3–32.
- Shaun Bowler (2017). “Trustees, Delegates, and Responsiveness in Comparative Perspective”. *Comparative Political Studies* 50 (6): 766–793.

Optional

- Wolfgang C. Müller (2000). “Political Parties in Parliamentary Democracies: Making Delegation and Accountability Work”. *European Journal of Political Research* 37 (3): 309–333.
- Eva H. Önnudóttir (2016). “Political Parties and Styles of Representation”. *Party Politics* 22 (6): 732–745.

Week 6: Economic Voting and the Cost of Governing (October 22, 2019)

- What is democratic accountability?
- Why do government parties regularly lose public support at the next election?

Mandatory Readings

- Christopher H. Achen and Larry M. Bartels (2016). *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: ch. 5.
- Heike Klüver and Jae-Jae Spoon (forthcoming). “Helping or Hurting? How Governing as a Junior Coalition Partner Influences Electoral Outcomes”. *The Journal of Politics*.

Optional

- Andrew Healy and Neil Malhotra (2013). “Retrospective Voting Reconsidered”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 16: 285–306.
- Karlheinz Reif and Hermann Schmitt (1980). “Nine Second-Order National Elections: A Conceptual Framework for the Analysis of European Election Results”. *European Journal of Political Research* 8 (1): 3–44.
- Anthony Fowler and Andrew B. Hall (2018). “Do Shark Attacks Influence Presidential Elections? Reassessing a Prominent Finding on Voter Competence”. *The Journal of Politics* 80 (4): 1423–1437.
- Michael W. Sances (2017). “Attribution Errors in Federalist Systems: When Voters Punish the President for Local Tax Increases”. *The Journal of Politics* 79 (4): 1286–1301.

Week 7: Responsiveness (October 29, 2019)

- What are the differences between accountability and responsiveness?
- Do parties and politicians react to public opinion?

Mandatory Readings

- Christopher Wlezien (1995). “[The Public as Thermostat: Dynamics of Preferences for Spending](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 39 (4): 981–1000.
- Heike Klüver and Jae-Jae Spoon (2016). “[Who Responds? Voters, Parties and Issue Attention](#)”. *British Journal of Political Science* 46 (3): 633–654.

Optional

- G. Bingham Powell (2004). “[The Chain of Responsiveness](#)”. *Journal of Democracy* 15 (4): 91–105.
- Benjamin I. Page and Robert Y. Shapiro (1983). “[Effects of Public Opinion on Policy](#)”. *American Political Science Review* 77 (1): 175–190.
- James A. Stimson, Michael B. Mackuen, and Robert S. Erikson (1995). “[Dynamic Representation](#)”. *American Political Science Review* 89 (3): 543–565.

Week 8: Party Competition (November 5, 2019)

- What goals do parties and politicians pursue?
- How do parties compete with each other, and how can we measure party competition?

Mandatory Readings

- Kaare Strøm (1990). “[A Behavioral Theory of Competitive Political Parties](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 34 (2): 565–598.
- Zeynep Somer-Topcu (2015). “[Everything to Everyone: The Electoral Consequences of the Broad-Appeal Strategy in Europe](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 59 (4): 841–854.

Optional

- Donald E. Stokes (1963). “[Spatial Models of Party Competition](#)”. *American Political Science Review* 57 (2): 368–377.
- Christoffer Green-Pedersen (2007). “[The Growing Importance of Issue Competition: The Changing Nature of Party Competition in Western Europe](#)”. *Political Studies* 55 (3): 607–628.
- Margit Tavits (2007). “[Principles vs. Pragmatism: Policy Shifts and Political Competition](#)”. *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (1): 151–165.

- Tobias Böhmelt, Lawrence Ezrow, Roni Lehrer, and Hugh Ward (2016). “Party Policy Diffusion”. *American Political Science Review* 110 (2): 397–410.

Week 9: Party Positions, Salience and Issue Ownership (November 12, 2019)

- What are differences between positions, salience, and issue ownership?
- How can we measure latent policy positions?
- What are methodological difficulties when measuring party positions?

Mandatory Readings

- Michael Laver (2014). “Measuring Policy Positions in Political Space”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 17: 207–223.
- Ian Budge (2015). “Issue Emphases, Saliency Theory and Issue Ownership: A Historical and Conceptual Analysis”. *West European Politics* 38 (4): 761–777.

Optional

- Slava Mikhaylov, Michael Laver, and Kenneth Benoit (2012). “Coder Reliability and Misclassification in the Human Coding of Party Manifestos”. *Political Analysis* 20 (1): 78–91.
- Zeynep Somer-Topcu (2015). “Everything to Everyone: The Electoral Consequences of the Broad-Appeal Strategy in Europe”. *American Journal of Political Science* 59 (4): 841–854.
- Daniel Bischof and Markus Wagner (2019). “Do Voters Polarize when Radical Parties Enter Parliament?”. *American Journal of Political Science* published ahead of print (doi: 10.1111/ajps.12449).

Week 10: Measuring Party Positions (November 19, 2019)

- Which datasets are available to measure party positions and issue salience?
- What software tools and methods can be used to derive latent party positions and classify issue salience?

Mandatory Readings

- Michael Laver, John Garry, and Kenneth Benoit (2003). “Extracting Policy Positions from Political Texts Using Words as Data”. *American Political Science Review* 97 (2): 311–331.
- Ian Budge and Thomas Meyer (2013). “Understanding and Validating the Left-Right Scale (RILE)”. *Mapping Policy Preferences From Texts: Statistical Solutions For Manifesto Analysts*. Ed. by Andrea Volkens, Judith Bara, Ian Budge, Michael D. McDonald, and Hans-Dieter Klingemann. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 85–106.
- Kenneth Benoit, Drew Conway, Benjamin E. Lauderdale, Michael Laver, and Slava Mikhaylov (2016). “Crowd-Sourced Text Analysis: Reproducible and Agile Production of Political Data”. *American Political Science Review* 110 (2): 278–295.

Optional

- Jonathan B. Slapin and Sven-Oliver Proksch (2008). “A Scaling Model for Estimating Time-Series Party Positions from Texts”. *American Journal of Political Science* 52 (3): 705–722.
- Nicolas Merz, Sven Regel, and Jirka Lewandowski (2016). “The Manifesto Corpus: A New Resource for Research on Political Parties and Quantitative Text Analysis”. *Research and Politics* 3 (2): 1–8.

Week 11: Application: Party Positions and Issue Salience (November 26, 2019)

- How can we apply the methods discussed in week 10 to textual data using the `quanteda` R package?

Mandatory Readings

- Justin Grimmer and Brandon M. Stewart (2013). “Text as Data: The Promise and Pitfalls of Automatic Content Analysis Methods for Political Texts”. *Political Analysis* 21 (3): 267–297.
- Kenneth Benoit, Kohei Watanabe, Haiyan Wang, Paul Nulty, Adam Obeng, Stefan Müller, and Akitaka Matsuo (2018). “`quanteda`: An R Package for the Quantitative Analysis of Textual Data”. *The Journal of Open Source Software* 3 (30): 774.
- Kasper Welbers, Wouter Van Atteveldt, and Kenneth Benoit (2017). “Text Analysis in R”. *Communication Methods and Measures* 11 (4): 245–265.

Optional

- Kohei Watanabe and Stefan Müller (2019). *Quanteda Tutorials*. URL: <https://tutorials.quanteda.io>.

Week 12: Representation in the Age of Digital Democracy (December 3, 2019)

- How does the internet change democratic decision making and representation?
- Do politicians and parties react to online discussions?

Mandatory Readings

- Gary King, Benjamin Schneer, and Ariel White (2017). “How the News Media Activate Public Expression and Influence National Agendas”. *Science* 358 (6364): 776–780.
- Andrew Guess, Jonathan Nagler, and Joshua A. Tucker (2019). “Less Than You Think: Prevalence and Predictors of Fake News Dissemination on Facebook”. *Science Advances* 5 (1): eaau4586.

Optional

- Henry Farrell (2012). “The Consequences of the Internet for Politics”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 15: 35–52.
- Pablo Barberá, Andreu Casas, Jonathan Nagler, Patrick J. Egan, Richard Bonneau, John T. Jost, and Joshua A. Tucker (2019). “Who Leads? Who Follows? Measuring Issue Attention and Agenda Setting by Legislators and the Mass Public Using Social Media Data”. *American Political Science Review* published ahead of print (doi: 10.1017/S0003055419000352).
- W. Russel Neuman, Lauren Guggenheim, S. Mo Jang, and Soo Young Bae (2014). “The Dynamics of Public Attention: Agenda-Setting Theory Meets Big Data”. *Journal of Communication* 64 (2): 193–214.

Week 13: Research Design: Research Question and Dependent Variable (October 10, 2019)

- Glenn Firebaugh (2008). *Seven Rules for Social Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: ch. 1.
- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: ch.1; 107–12.

Optional

- Robert Adcock and David Collier (2001). “Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research”. *American Political Science Review* 95 (3): 529–546.

Week 14: Research Design: Falsifiability and Causal Inference (December 17, 2019)

Mandatory Readings

- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: ch. 3.

Optional

- Paul W. Holland (1986). “Statistics and Causal Inference”. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 81 (396): 945–960.
- John Gerring (2001). *Social Science Methodology: A Critical Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: ch. 7.