Political Regimes

Foundations Seminar

Stefano Bartolini and Hanspeter Kriesi

First Term (October-December 2015) – Tuesdays 9-11 a.m. – Room 4

Registration with Maureen Lechleitner (maureen.lechleitner@eui.eu) or online

Topic

This seminar focuses on the concept of ‘political regimes’ which is essential to the analysis of all world transitions, in Europe as well as in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. Transitions are processes which, when they are accomplished, should solidify in a different constellation of actors, political structures (meant as relatively stable and recurrent patterns of behavior among the relevant actors), political institutions, and political values. A clear understanding of the types of regimes we move from and the types we arrive at, is key to the understanding of the direction of change. The seminar will review classic as well as contemporary theories and examples of different regimes, including the hybrid variants that aliment current debates.

Audience

The seminar is devoted to first and second year researchers, but third year researchers are welcome.

Requirements

By choosing to take this class you are taking on the obligation to reading all the materials. Over the course of the seminar students must submit three 500-word response papers to the readings for a given session and post that paper on the course website at noon on the day before class. These response papers are fundamental for the holding of a good discussion of the materials, as is a thorough reading of the assigned texts.
Schedule

The seminar will run from October to December

Tuesday 6 October, 9-11 Seminar Room 4
Tuesday 13 October, 9-11 Seminar Room 4
Tuesday 20 October, 9-11 Seminar Room 4
Tuesday 27 October 9-11 Seminar Room 4
Tuesday 3 November, 9-11 Seminar Room 4
Tuesday 10 November, 9-11 Seminar Room 4
Tuesday 17 November, 9-11 Seminar Room 4
Tuesday 24 November 9-11 Seminar Room 4
Tuesday 1 December, 9-11 Seminar Room 4
Tuesday 8 December, 9-11 Seminar Room 4

Syllabus

1) What is a regime? Some fundamental questions

- Aristotle (385 BC), Aristotle’s Politics, translated and with an introduction, notes, and
(Second edition), Books 3 and 4, pp. 62-128.
  190-211.

2) Traditional Regimes

Oligarchies

- Jeffrey A. Winters (2011), Oligarchy. Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-39; 121-34; 208-
  54

Caudillism

  1: 3-9; last chapter: 425-38.

Sultanistic regimes

- Chebabi Houchang E. and Juan J. Linz (eds) (1998), Sultanistic Regimes, Baltimore, Johns
  Hopkins University Press, pp. 3-25; 26-48; 206-229.
3) **Dictatorship**


4) **Authoritarian Regimes 1**


5) **Authoritarian Regimes 2**

*Fascism*


*Military-bureaucratic regimes*


6) **Authoritarian Regimes 3**

*Organic statism*


*Mobilization regimes*

The breakdown of authoritarian regimes


7) Totalitarian Regimes


8) Democracies


9) Hybrid regimes


10) Comparative analysis of authoritarian regimes