The Study of Economic and Political Crises

Dorothee Bohle and Hanspeter Kriesi
Tuesdays 9:00 AM-11:00 AM, Badia Seminar Room 4
Registration with Maureen Lechleitner (Maureen.Lechleitner@EUI.eu)

Description
This seminar opens a discussion between the political economy and the comparative politics literature on the Great Recession in Europe. The Great Recession which broke out in 2008 has been followed by a crisis of representative democracy, as witnessed for instance by the destabilization of party systems and the rise and power grab of populist parties. How can we explain the Great Recession, and how the crisis of representation? Are these two crises related, and if so, how? What – if anything – can we learn on this relationship from previous major economic and political crises? How do politics and the political economy play out in policy responses to the Great Recession?

These are broad questions, to which no definite answer can be given. The aim of the seminar is to explore a range of approaches that seek to address these questions. We chose the literature based on two criteria: on the one hand, we provide a selection of approaches that have been proposed to come to terms with the question of the origins, consequences and interrelationship of political and economic crises. On the other hand, we have selected a set of papers that present empirical evidence about the different forms the political crisis has taken in the three regions of Europe – Northwestern, Southern and Central- and Eastern Europe – in the shadow of the economic crisis. We consider this discussion very much as work in progress

Requirements
Students are expected to submit three 500-word response papers to the readings for a given session and post that paper on the course website. This is a reading intensive seminar, and the response papers are fundamental for holding a good discussion of the material, as is a thorough reading of the assigned texts. These response papers have to be turned in at the latest by noon the day before the seminar meets.

Writing a term paper is encouraged. Those who wish to write a term paper should submit it to us by email and in paper copy, with a cc to Maureen Lechleitner.
Sessions, topics and readings

1. **Introduction: economic and political crises in capitalism (January 10)**

2. **Crisis, breakdown and reequilibration (January 17)**

3. **Sectoral coalitions and policy preferences (January 24)**
4. **How the voters operate – in general and in times of crisis (January 31)**

5. **Political economy of debt (crises) (February 7)**

6. **Varieties of capitalism and varieties of crises (February 14)**

7. **Political crisis: Northwestern Europe (February 21)**


• Kriesi, Hanspeter, Swen Hutter and Jasmine Lorenzini 2016. *Contesting economic and new cultural issues in the Great Recession*, unpubl ms.

8. **Political crisis: Southern Europe (February 28)**


• Hutter, Swen, Hanspeter Kriesi and Guillem Vidal 2016. *Old vs. New politics. The political spaces in Southern Europe in times of crisis*, unpubl ms (41 pp.)


9. **Political crisis: Central- and Eastern Europe (March 7)**


• Gessler, Theresa and Anna Kyriazi 2016. A ‘Hungarian crisis’ or ‘the crisis in Hungary’? Chapter 7 in *Transformative elections? Restructuring the national political space in Europe in times of multiple crises*, edited by Swen Hutter et al., unpubl ms. (34p.)

10. **Economic ideas and policy change (March 14)**


