Economic and political crises

Dorothee Bohle and Hanspeter Kriesi

Tuesdays 9:00 AM-11:00 AM, Badia Fiesolana, Seminar Room 4

Registration
Organising Administrative Assistant: Maureen Lechleitner (Maureen.Lechleitner@EUI.eu)

Description
This seminar reopens the 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. This seminar continues the discussion we started in our seminar a year ago, based on a related, but somewhat different choice of literature. We start out with the political economy of economic and political crises in general and of the Euro crisis in particular, and we end with the comparative literature on political preferences, electoral choices and political protest in the Great Recession. In a special session, we also review some texts from both types of literature on the Great Depression and Weimar in particular. 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 9, DB)

2. **Sectoral coalitions and policy preferences** (January 16, HK)

3. **Weimar** (January 23, HK)


4. **Political economy of debt** (January 30, DB)


5. **Euro crisis 1** (February 6, DB)

• Eichengreen, Barry 2015. Hall of mirrors. The Great Depression, the great recession, and the uses and misuses of history. Oxford U Press, Intro, Chapters 6, 14, 24, 26, Conclusion (90 pages) (Library: 330.9730916)


6. **Euro crisis 2** (February 13, HK)

• Schelkle, Waltraud 2017. The political economy of monetary solidarity. Understanding the euro experiment. Cambridge U Press. Chapters 1-3, 5-7, 10 (210 pages) (Library: 332.494)
7. **Voters’ preferences 1: ethnographic studies** (February 20, DB)
   - Damhuis, Koen 2017. A typology of PVV support (40 pages)

8. **Voters’ preferences 2: survey-based studies** (February 27, HK)
   - Gidron, Noam and Peter A. Hall 2017. The politics of social status: economic and cultural roots of the populist right, _The British Journal of Sociology_ 68: 557-584

9. **Electoral consequences of the Great Recession** (March 6, HK)
   - Hutter, Swen and Hanspeter Kriesi (eds.) 2017. _Restructuring European Party Politics in Times of Crises_, unpubl. Ms., (Chapters 1,2,14 and 15)
10. **Political protest in the Great Recession** (March 13, DB)
