



SPS seminar 2nd term 2017-2018

The Politics of Institutional Change: The New Party Politics and Policy Recalibration

Organised by Ellen M. Immergut

Tuesday 15:00-17:00

Seminar Room 2; Badia Fiesolana

Register [online](#)

Contact: Monika.Rzemieniecka@eui.eu

This seminar addresses the political, behavioral, and institutional drivers of policy change. As the course will demonstrate, scholars have focused thus far on explaining *barriers* to policy change more than they have addressed the *sources* of change. The course proposes this stems from bifurcation of institutional and behavioral approaches to policy change and that current cutting-edge work aims precisely to reunite these approaches. The aims of this seminar are two-fold: first, to provide doctoral researchers with an arsenal of theoretical hypotheses (sometimes referred to as rounding up “the usual suspects”); and second, to further develop analytic and conceptual skills by summarizing and debating key readings in the field of policy change. Requirements: weekly memo, kick-off discussion, preparation of discussion questions.

1 **The New Institutionalism, Historical Institutionalism and the New Institutional Behaviouralism**

9.1. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2

Recommended:

Immergut, Ellen M, The Theoretical Core of the New Institutionalism, *Politics and Society*, (1998), 26, 1:5-34.

Immergut, Ellen M, and Karen M Anderson, Historical Institutionalism and West European Politics, *West European Politics*, (2008), 31, Nos. 1-2, January-March:345-369.

2 **Historical Institutionalism and Gradual Institutional Change**

16.1. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2

Pierson, Paul, Positive Feedbacks and Path Dependence, In *Politics in Time: History, Institutions, and Social Analysis*, edited by P. Pierson, (Princeton, Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2004), 17-53.

Mahoney, James, and Kathleen Thelen, A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change, In *Explaining Institutional Change. Ambiguity, Agency, and Power*, edited by J. Mahoney and K. Thelen, (New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2010), 1-37.

3 **Veto Points and Veto Players**

23.1. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2

Tsebelis, George, Decision making in political systems: Veto players in presidentialism, parliamentarism, multicameralism and multipartyism, *British Journal of Political Science*, (1995), 25, 3:289-325.

Tsebelis, George, Veto players and law production in parliamentary Democracies: An empirical analysis, *American Political Science Review*, (1999), 93, 3:591-608.

4 **Partisanship and Party Competition**

30.1. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2

Lindvall, Johannes, and David Rueda, The Insider–Outsider Dilemma, *British Journal of Political Science*, (2013):1-16.

Gingrich, Jane, and Silja Häusermann, The decline of the working-class vote, the reconfiguration of the welfare support coalition and consequences for the welfare state, *Journal of European Social Policy*, (2015), 25, 1:50-75.

5 **Ideational Arguments**

6.2. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2

Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink, International Norm Dynamics and Political Change, *International Organization*, (1998), 52, 4:887-917.

Jacobs, Alan M., How do ideas matter?: Mental models and attention in German pension politics, *Comparative Political Studies*, (2009), 42, 2:252-279.

6 **Policy Responsiveness**

13.2. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2

Wlezien, Christopher, and Stuart N. Soroka, Political Institutions and the Opinion–Policy Link, *West European Politics*, (2012), 35, 6:1407-1432.

Hobolt, Sara B., and Robert Klemmensen, Government Responsiveness and Political Competition in Comparative Perspective, *Comparative Political Studies*, (2008), 41, 3:309-337.

7 **Changing Policy Preferences**

20.2. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2

Rehm, Philipp, Social Policy by Popular Demand, *World Politics*, (2011), 63, 2:271-99.

Häusermann, Silja , Thomas Kurer, and Hanna Schwander, High-skilled Outsiders? Labor Market Vulnerability, Education and Welfare State Preferences, *Socio-Economic Review*, (2015), 25, 2:235–258.

8 **Dependent Variables I**

27.2. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2

Haverland, Markus, National Adaptation to European Integration: The Importance of Institutional Veto Points, *Journal of Public Policy*, (2000), 20, 1:83-103.

Knill, Christoph, Marc Debus, and Stephan Heichel, Do parties matter in internationalised policy areas? The impact of political parties on environmental policy outputs in 18 OECD countries, 1970-2000, *European Journal of Political Research*, (2010), 49, 3:301-336.

9 **Dependent Variables II**

6.3. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2

Immergut, Ellen M, and Tarik Abou-Chadi, How Electoral Vulnerability Affects Pension Politics: Introducing a Concept, Measure and Empirical Application, *European Journal of Political Research*, (2014), 53, 2:269–287.

10 **Conclusions**

13.3. 15:00-17:00 Seminar Room 2