



SPS 1<sup>st</sup> term seminar 2018-2019

# Comparative Political Economy

Organised by Dorothee Bohle and Philipp Genschel

Tuesdays, 11:00-13:00

Seminar Room 2, Badia Fiesolana

Register [online](#)

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## Description

The seminar introduces comparative research and debates on varieties of market economies. It focusses on approaches that seek to conceptualize different models of capitalism in advanced and peripheral capitalist countries, and investigates the role of institutions, interest groups, and ideas in constituting, reproducing and transforming these models. The first part of the course focusses on the influential “Varieties of Capitalism” approach, its precursors and critics, and attempts at expanding it geographically beyond advanced capitalist countries. The second part focuses on issues such as the role of finance and housing, inequality and taxation in contemporary capitalism. The course concludes by bringing politics to political economy.

The aim of the course is twofold. One is to familiarize students with classic texts and recent publications that any emerging scholar of comparative political economy will find useful (the list is in that sense necessary but not sufficient, of course). The other is to help students develop their own research project by encouraging them to see it through the lens of the class readings. Class room discussions will offer ample opportunity to raise concerns related to individual projects.

## Requirements

For each session, we ask students to post 2-3 questions about readings (or the relationship among the readings), with each question accompanied by an expository paragraph or two explaining the origin and context of the question. Over the course of the seminar, students must submit questions for 5 of the 10 course sessions (students may choose the sessions for which they post questions, except for the first session). Students are expected to post questions to the course webpage by noon the previous day, as these guide our discussion in the next day’s class. These brief ‘question papers’ are fundamental for the holding of a good discussion of the materials, as is a thorough reading of the assigned readings.

Writing a term paper is encouraged. Your term paper should draw on the literature covered in the course but go well beyond it. The goal of any term paper should be an eventually publishable article. Those who wish to write a term paper should submit it to us by email and in paper copy, with a cc to Monika Rzemieniecka. The deadline for the submission is 18 January 2019.

This seminar is worth 20 credits.

## Readings

### *Session 1 Introduction (2 October)*

Gerschenkron, Alexander. 1962. *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective: A Book of Essays*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, pp. 5-30.

Hall Peter A., and David Sockice. 2001. "Introduction". In Hall, Peter A., and David Sockice, eds. *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-68.

Streeck, Wolfgang. 2010. "E Pluribus Unum? Varieties and Commonalities of Capitalism." MPIfG Discussion Paper MPIfG Discussion Paper 10/12. Cologne: Max Planck Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung. <https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=1805522>.

### *Session 2 Capitalism and the Welfare State (9 October)*

Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton University Press., chapters 1-3, pp. 9-78.

Estevez-Abe, Margarita, Torben Iversen and David Soskice 2001. "Social Protection and the Formation of Skills: A Reinterpretation of the Welfare State." *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*.

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Torben\\_Iversen2/publication/235220621\\_Social\\_Protection\\_and\\_the\\_Formation\\_of\\_Skills\\_A\\_Reinterpretation\\_of\\_the\\_Welfare\\_State/links/0912f51083d054508000000.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Torben_Iversen2/publication/235220621_Social_Protection_and_the_Formation_of_Skills_A_Reinterpretation_of_the_Welfare_State/links/0912f51083d054508000000.pdf).

### *Session 3 Peripheral capitalisms (16 October)*

Witt, Michael A., & Gordon Redding (2014). China: Authoritarian Capitalism. In Michael A. Witt and Gordon Redding (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Asian Business Systems*, 11-32. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Rueda, David, Erik Wibbels, and Melina Altamirano. 2015. "The Origins of Dualism." In *The Politics of Advanced Capitalism*, edited by Beramendi, Pablo, Häusermann, Silja, Kitschelt, Herbert, and Kriesi, Hanspeter, 89–111. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Schneider, Ben Ross. 2009. "Hierarchical Market Economies and Varieties of Capitalism in Latin America." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 41 (3): 553–575

Andreas Nölke, Arjan Vliegthart, Enlarging the Varieties of Capitalism: The Emergence of Dependent Market Economies in East Central Europe, *World Politics*, Volume 61, Number 4, October 2009, pp. 670-702

#### *Session 4 East European Capitalisms (23 October)*

Bohle, Dorothee, and Béla Greskovits. 2012. *Capitalist Diversity on Europe's Periphery*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2, pp.7-95.

Easter, Gerald M. 2012. *Capital, Coercion, and Postcommunist States*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press; Introduction, chapters 1&3, pp. 1-12, 51-86.

#### *Session 5 Varieties of residential capitalism (30 October)*

Schwartz, Herman, and Leonard Seabrooke. 2008. "Varieties of Residential Capitalism in the International Political Economy: Old Welfare States and the New Politics of Housing." *Comparative European Politics* 6 (3): 237–261.

Ansell, Ben. 2014. "The Political Economy of Ownership: Housing Markets and the Welfare State." *American Political Science Review* 108 (2): 383–402.

Johnston, Alison, and Aidan Regan. 2017. "Global Finance, Labor Politics, and the Political Economy of Housing Prices." *Politics & Society*, 0032329217702102. (online first, 32 pages)

Bohle, Dorothee. 2017. "Mortgaging Europe's Periphery." *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 1–22.

#### *Session 6 Sources of growth and growth models (6 November)*

Baccaro, Lucio and Pontusson, Jonas. "Rethinking Comparative Political Economy: The Growth Model Perspective". *Politics & Society* 2016, Vol. 44(2) 175– 207, + the contributions of the symposium on growth models by Hope and Soskice, Martin, Piore and Streeck, pp. 209-247

Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson (2008). "The Role of Institutions in Growth and Development", *The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank, Commission on Growth and Development, Working Paper no 10.*

Castellacci, Fulvio Evolutionary and new growth theories. Are they converging?, *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC SURVEYS* Volume: 21 Issue: 3 Pages: 585-627

### *Session 7 Varieties of capitalism and the eurocrisis (13 November)*

Iversen, Torben, David Soskice, and David Hope. 2016. "The Eurozone and Political Economic Institutions." *Annual Review of Political Science* 19: 163–185.

Barta, Zsófia. 2018. *In the Red: The Politics of Public Debt Accumulation in Developed Countries*. University of Michigan Press., chapters 1-2, pp. 1-59

Schelkle, Waltraud 2018: *The Political Economy of Monetary Solidarity*, Oxford: OUP, ch. 1 pp. 1-30.

### *Session 8 The political economy of taxation (20 November)*

Seelkopf, Laura et al. (2018) *The rise of modern taxation*. Florence: EUI, unpubl. manuscript.

Kenneth Scheve & David Stasavage (2010). "The Conscriptio of Wealth: Mass Warfare and the Demand for Progressive Taxation." *International Organization*, 64, 529-561,  
Doi:10+10170S0020818310000226

Evan S. Liebermann (2001). "National Political Community and the Politics of Income Taxation in Brazil and South Africa in the Twentieth Century." *Politics & Society*, 29:4, 515-555.

Philipp Genschel, Hanna Lierse & Laura Seelkopf (2016). "Dictators don't compete: autocracy, democracy, and tax competition". *Review of International Political Economy*, 23:2, 290-315, DOI: 10.1080/09692290.2016.1152995

### *Session 9 Inequality in Advanced Economies (27 November)*

Alvaredo et al. 2013: *The Top 1 Percent in International and Historical Perspective*. In: *Journal of Economic Perspectives* - Volume 27, Number 3 - Summer 2013 - Pages 3-20

Ballard-Rosa, Cameron ; Martin, Lucy<sup>1</sup>; Scheve, Kenneth: "The Structure of American Income Tax Policy Preferences", *JOURNAL OF POLITICS* Volume: 79 Issue: 1 Pages: 1-16

Beramendi, Pablo and Philipp Rehm: "Who Gives, Who Gains? Progressivity and Preferences", *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 49, Number 4, pp. Pages: 529-563

Pontusson, Jonas and Lane Kenworthy, 'Rising Inequality and the Politics of Redistribution in Affluent Countries', *Perspectives on Politics*, 2005, Vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 449-471.

## *Session 10 The return of economic nationalism ( 4 December)*

Hirschman, Albert O. 1980. *National Power and the Structure of Foreign Trade*. University of California Press, chapters 1-3, pp. 3-40, 53-84.

Navarro, Peter, and Stephen S. Roach. 2012. "China's Currency Manipulation: A Policy Debate." *World Affairs*, 27–37.

Levi-Faur, David. 1997. "Economic Nationalism: From Friedrich List to Robert Reich." *Review of International Studies* 23 (3): 359–370.

Morawiecki, Mateusz (2016): The Polish Case for less economic liberalism. Politico, at: <https://www.politico.eu/article/the-polish-case-for-economic-illiberalism-stability-development/>

Bohle, Dorothee and Béla Greskovits (2018): Politicizing Embedded Neoliberalism: Continuity and Change in Hungary's Development Model. Manuscript