



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

Organised by Ellen M. Immergut

Tuesdays 14:00-16:00

Please see room schedule on page 4

Register [Online](#)

Contact Adele.Battistini@eui.eu

This seminar addresses the political, behavioral, and institutional drivers of policy change, with a particular focus on examining the relationships amongst public preferences, electoral and party competition, institutions and policy outcomes. 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 that can be deployed in a range of projects; and second, to further develop analytic and conceptual skills by summarizing and debating key readings in the field of policy responsiveness. The course draws both on qualitative and quantitative analyses.

Requirements: Preparation of discussion questions, active participation in class discussions, take home essay (5 pages) due on December 11th, optional term paper in the form of a literature review due **19th January 2019**.

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

2.10 14:00-16:00 Seminar Room 4

Immergut, E. M. (2006), Paradigms of Change in Political Science: Historical-Institutionalism and the Problem of Change. In: A. Wimmer & R. Kößler (eds), *Understanding Change: Models, Methodologies and Metaphors*, New York/Basingstoke, Palgrave/Macmillan. pp. 237-259.

2 **Historical Institutionalism and Gradual Institutional Change**

9.10 14:00-16:00 Seminar Room 4

Mahoney, J. (2006), Analyzing Path Dependence: Lessons from the Social Sciences. In: A. Wimmer & R. Kössler (eds), *Understanding Change: Models, Methodologies, and Metaphors*, Houndsmills, Basingstoke, UK, Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 129-139.

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 Policy Change**

16.10 14:00-16:00 Seminar Room 4

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

Immergut, E. M. & Orłowski, M. (2013), Veto Points and the Environment. In: K. Armingeon (ed), *Staatstätigkeiten, Parteien und Demokratie: Festschrift für Manfred G. Schmidt*, Wiesbaden, Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften. pp. 203-215.

4 **Changing Policy Preferences and Political Behaviour**

23.10 14:00-16:00 Seminar Room 4

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.

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.

5 **Policy Responsiveness: Public Mood and Legislative Response**

30.10 14:00-16:00 Sala del Capitolo

Stimson, J. A., MacKuen, M. B. & Erikson, R. S. (1995), Dynamic Representation. *American Political Science Review*, 89, 3: 543-565.

Wlezien, C. (1995), The public as thermostat: Dynamics of preferences for spending. *American Journal of Political Science*, 39, 4: 981–1000.

6 **Institutions and Policy Responsiveness**

6.11 14:00-16:00 Seminar Room Villa Paola

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, Political Space and Party Competition**

13.11 14:00-16:00 Seminar Room 4

Kitschelt, H. (1994) *The Transformation of European Social Democracy*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp. 8-27, 30-37.

Meguid, B. M. (2005), Competition between Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy in Niche Party Success. *American Political Science Review*, 99, 3: 347–359.

8 **Policy Responsiveness versus Policy Feedback**

20.11 14:00-16:00 Seminar Room 2

Adams, J. F. (2012), Causes and electoral consequences of party policy shifts in multiparty elections: Theoretical results and empirical evidence. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 15: 401-419.

Campbell, A. L. (2012), Policy makes mass politics. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 15: 333-351.

9 **Competition and Political Behavior**

27.11 14:00-16:00 Seminar Room 4

Kedar, O. (2005), When Moderate Voters Prefer Extreme Parties: Policy Balancing in Parliamentary Elections. *American Political Science Review*, 99, 2: 185-199.

Pardos-Prado, S. (2015), How Can Mainstream Parties Prevent Niche Party Success? Center-Right Parties and the Immigration Issue. *The Journal of Politics*, 77, 2: 352-367.

Take-Home Essay Question will be distributed

10 **Conclusions**

11.12 14:00-16:00 Sala del Capitolo

Take-Home Essay Due

Schedule and Room

Tuesday 2 October 14.00-16.00 Seminar Room 4

Tuesday 9 October 14.00-16.00 Seminar Room 4

Tuesday 16 October 14.00-16.00 Seminar Room 4

Tuesday 23 October 14.00-16.00 Seminar Room 4

Tuesday 30 October 14.00-16.00 Sala del Capitolo

Tuesday 6 November 14.00-16.00 Seminar Room Villa Paola

Tuesday 13 November 14.00-16.00 Seminar Room 4

Tuesday 20 November 14.00-16.00 Seminar Room 2

Tuesday 27 November 14.00-16.00 Seminar Room 4

Tuesday 11 December 14.00-16.00 Sala del Capitolo