



SPS Accademia Fiesolana 2019

‘Democracy and Society’

SPS introduction program 2019-2020

23 & 24 September, Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana)

25 September, Sala Del Capitolo (Badia Fiesolana)

13.30 – 15.30

Organised by Philipp Genschel

No registration required (compulsory seminar for all first-year researchers)

Before downloading the readings, please read [the EUI’s electronic resources policy](#)

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Description

As part of the introductory program for new researchers, the SPS department is organizing the “SPS Accademia Fiesolana 2019” on the topic of **Democracy and Society** on **23, 24 and 25 September from 13.30 pm to 15.30 in Room (see above)**.

The EUI aims to be a vibrant space of academic intercourse, where a plethora of seminars, workshops, public lectures, book launches, thesis defences, and high-level workshops, staged each and every week throughout the academic year. The SPS department organizes the “SPS Accademia Fiesolana” to give its new researchers a taste of this culture of discourse and introduce them to the research of some of its faculty members .

During the “SPS Accademia Fiesolana” we will exchange and discuss ideas, evidence and arguments on topical issues in the social sciences with a view not only to discuss this from a purely academic point of view, but also to deliberate about the issue(s) at hand from the perspective of political implications and policy relevance. The “SPS Accademia Fiesolana” takes place over three afternoon sessions.

The first session deals with the purported crisis of democracy in Europe. How real is it? What can be done about it? The second session addresses changing gender relations in modern economies. How much gender diversity is there in modern workspaces, and where? How can experimental methods help to investigate the causes, obstacles and consequences of such diversity? The third session turns to the European Union and investigates the policy demand for transnational solidarity and the social, political and normative bases of its (lack of) supply. More detailed descriptions of the sessions follow below. In preparation of the sessions, please read the indicated material and prepare questions and comments.

Session 1: Is there a crisis of democracy in Europe? (Hanspeter Kriesi)

This presentation addresses the current talk about a crisis of democracy in Europe in the light of some empirical evidence about long-term trends and their articulation in Europe's party systems. It suggests that the crisis talk is largely exaggerated. I present my argument in four steps. To begin with, I adopt the birds' eye view of long-term trends – just to reassure us where we ought to situate the argument in the grand scheme of things. The next three steps, which will be more detailed, focus on Europe. In step two, I adopt the perspective of the citizens and ask whether they adhere to the principles of democracy, and how they evaluate democracy in Europe. In fact, they largely support the principles, but are highly critical of the way they are currently implemented in their own country. In step three, I adopt the perspective of the voters and discuss the rise of populism in Europe. While acknowledging the rise of populism, I suggest that we need to be careful about how to interpret it. In particular, we need to distinguish between two forces on which it builds – the long-term structural change of society and political dissatisfaction. Finally, I turn to the perspective of the elites, i.e. to the question of what happens when populists get into power. I discuss five factors that serve to constrain the threat posed by populists in power – institutional, partisan, international, market constraints and constraints imposed by citizens. My overall assessment of the state of democracy in Europe is that there is reason for concern, but no reason for panic.

Readings:

[Galston, William A. 2018. The populist challenge to liberal democracy, *Journal of Democracy* 29, 2: 5-19.](#)

[Kriesi, Hanspeter and Guillem Vidal 2019. *Types of democrats*. Florence: unpublished ms.](#)

[Levitsky, Steven and Daniel Ziblatt 2018. *How democracies die*, N.Y.: Crown.](#)

Session 2: Gender diversity and social cohesion (Klarita Gërxhani)

Due to globalization, immigration and increasing participation of women in the labor market, organizations in modern societies face a dynamic environment that poses ever-changing pressures on their workplace arrangements. Increasing diversity has been continuously emphasized, especially by organizational psychologists, as highly beneficial for an organization's collective achievement. A diverse working environment allows for new ideas and perspectives, it enhances a sense of belonging and well-being, and it also increases an organization's revenues. This lecture will focus on gender diversity. Considering that women's participation in the labor market has increased, public opinion has changed, and that national-level initiatives like quotas have been imposed on female representation on corporate boards, one might expect that gender diversity in the workplace will have reached a fair representation of societal gender diversity by now. Is this the case? And what are the underlying mechanisms of the current (lack of) gender diversity? Besides giving an overview of the challenges of reaching gender diversity, the lecture will demonstrate how one can do empirical research on this topic by using experimental methods.

Readings:

[Barbara, R.F. and D. McBrier \(2000\). Why Not Ascription? Organizations' Employment of Male and Female Managers. *American Sociological Review* 65: 210-33.](#)

[Correll, S.J. and Ridgeway, C.L. \(2003\). "Expectation States Theory." Pp. 29-51 in the *Handbook of Social Psychology*, edited by John Delamater. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York.](#)

[Schram, A., Brandts, J., and Gërkhani, K. \(2019\). Social-Status Ranking: A Hidden Channel to Gender Inequality under Competition. *Experimental Economics* 22\(2\): 396-418.](#)

Session 3: Solidarity in Europe? (Philipp Genschel)

Special guest: Gary Marks

European solidarity is in high demand but short supply. Following the global financial crisis 2008, the demand-supply gap has grown considerably, seriously fraying the social, economic, institutional and political cohesion of the European Union (EU). Just consider the following examples:

- The Eurozone crisis quickly turned into a blame game between creditor and debtor countries that left the burden of saving the Euro mostly to the (constitutionally inadequate) ECB.
- In some member states (youth) unemployment rose to levels not seen since the 1930s, while leaving other member states unaffected and seemingly unconcerned.
- The refugee crisis led to finger-pointing between frontline states, transit states, host states, and unaffected bystanders while (not so) temporary border controls sprang up throughout the Schengen area.
- Calls for more unity in European Security and Defense policy go hand in hand with manifest disagreement on defense spending and the pooling and sharing of defense equipment, technology, and production.

Why is transnational solidarity so difficult? We discuss interest-based, identity-based and normative arguments and take a cursory look at survey data on citizens' attitudes towards European solidarity.

Readings:

[Bremer, B., P. Genschel and M. Jachtenfuchs \(2019\), 'Juncker's Curse? Identity, Interest and Public Support for the Integration of Core State Powers', *Journal of Common Market Studies* forthcoming.](#)

[Hooghe, L. and G. Marks \(2009\), 'A Postfunctionalist Theory of European Integration: From Permissive Consensus to Constraining Dissensus'. *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 39, No. 1, p. 1.](#)

[Sangiovanni, A. \(2013\), 'Solidarity in the European Union', *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 33: 213-41.](#)