Description
This Research Seminar deals with the series of crises that have hit Europe since 2008: the financial crisis, the Eurozone crisis, the refugee crisis and, eventually, Brexit. Supranational decision making was severely tested. From today’s vantage point, we observe that policy performance has not lived up to its promises and potential, damaging public trust in the efficacy and transparency of the EU. Pessimistic views now abound in academic and policy debates. And yet, despite existential threats, we observe resilience. The EU and the euro have not fallen apart. At the apex of the crisis, EU leaders managed to agree on strategies for recovery and, with the exception of the UK, are now debating how to strengthen integration in the long run. After record lows, citizens’ support for integration is picking up again.

The seminar aims to understand when, how and why doom and elation go together. The EU is still fragile. Its durability ultimately hinges on the capacity of the Union’s political sphere to address collective problems and to orchestrate consensus about solutions, in the context of a shared and robust normative order. This is a demanding condition. New capacities were created during the long crisis. But it is not clear how robust they are and whether developing them further will encounter unsurmountable obstacles, including resentment by citizens. Did the sequence of policy crises produce a “deep” political crisis which unsettles fundamental assumptions and practices regarding the exercise of authority and its legitimation, or did it just constitute a temporary setback that will serve to strengthen European integration in the not so distant future? To find answers to this question, we consider two types of literatures. On the one hand, we are reading interpretations of the current sequence of crises; on the other hand, we are reconsidering accounts of precedent crises of European integration.

By choosing to take this class you are taking on the obligation to reading all the materials. Over the course of the seminar students must submit three 500-word response papers to the readings for a given session and post that paper on the course website at noon of the day before class.
These response papers are fundamental for the holding of a good discussion of the materials, as is a thorough reading of the assigned texts.

Writing a term paper is encouraged. Your term paper should draw on the literature covered in the course but go well beyond it. 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. **What is a crisis?** (Philipp Genschel) (January 13, 2020)

2. **Restructuring Europe** (Hanspeter Kriesi) (January 20, 2020)

3. **A recent interpretation of a participant** (Hanspeter Kriesi) (January 27, 2020)

4. **European integration theory and the crisis** (Philipp Genschel) (February 3, 2020)


5. Explanations for policy-failure (Philipp Genschel) (February 10, 2020)

• Genschel, Philipp and Markus Jachtenfuchs 2018. From market integration to core state powers: the Eurozone crisis, the refugee crisis and European integration, JCMS 56, 1: 178-196.


6. The empty chair crisis (Hanspeter Kriesi) (February 17, 2020)


• Ludlow, Piers N. 2006. The European Community and the Crises of the 1960s. London Routlege. (Chapters 3 and 4: pp. 71-124)

• Palayret, Jean-Marie, Helen Wallace and Pascaline Winand (eds.) 2006. Visions, Votes and Vetoes. The Empty Chair Crisis and the Luxembourg Compromise Forty Years On. Bruxelles: Peter Lang. (Chapters 1 (pp. 21-42) and 13 (pp. 301-320).
7. **The oil crisis** (Philipp Genschel) (February 24, 2020)


8. **The UK rebate** (March 2, 2020) (Philipp Genschel)


9. **Brexit** (March 9, 2020) (Hanspeter Kriesi)


• Hay, Colin 2019. Brexistential Angst and the Paradoxes of Populism: On the Contingency, Predictability and Intelligibility of Seismic Shifts, *Political Studies*


10. **Taking stock: what have we found?** (March 16, 2020) (Hanspeter Kriesi)