



The Transformation of European Politics

SPS Third-term Workshop 2019-2020

Dates: 1 April 10:00-18:00

2 April 10:00-16:00

Location: Seminar room 1, Badia Fiesolana

[Register for this workshop](#)

[Organising administrative assistant: Maureen Lechleitner](#)

Instructor: Prof. Tarik Abou-Chadi, University of Zurich

The past 20-30 years have seen a fundamental transformation of the political space in European democracies. Parties of the mainstream left and right, the once dominant actors in European politics, have seen a dramatic decline in support in many countries. Some of them now face an existential crisis that they might not recover from. On the other hand, new challenger parties such as the radical right or Green parties, but also the Italian M5S or Macron's LREM have become influential actors that have upended existing party systems.

Political science has investigated these transformations from a multitude of perspectives. The socio-economic transformations of post-industrial societies have fundamentally transformed political demands and in reaction to these demands, established parties have sought to create new political alliances. Similarly, new parties have formed that challenge existing patterns of party competition and themselves politicize new issues, change norms and discourses and affect the logic of policy-making. On the demand side itself, political scientists show a revived interest in class structures, networks and milieus, and determinants such as social status and recognition, opening up a wide field of questions at the intersection of political science and sociology.

This workshop will investigate these and other related questions. It will take the form of a Mini-conference. Doctoral students will get the opportunity to present their own work-in-progress on a related question. The main goal of this workshop will be to improve these papers. In addition to theoretical and methodological questions, the workshop will focus on how to

improve the framing of these papers and how they can better address the right debates and audiences.

Doctoral researchers are asked to submit full papers by 1 March. These will then be presented and commented at the mini-conference. Doctoral students will also serve as a discussant for another paper.

Time Frame:

April 1:

10:00 – 10:15: *Introduction*. Tarik Abou-Chadi

10:15 – 11:15 *How to write a journal article? Some pieces of advice*. Tarik Abou-Chadi

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30 Presentation 1

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Presentation 2

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 – 16:15 Presentation 3

16:15 – 17:15 Presentation 4

18:00 – 19:30: Public Lecture Tarik Abou-Chadi. *Social democracy, the working class and the radical right. A false narrative about social democratic party decline*

April 2:

10:00 – 11:00: Presentation 5

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:15 Presentation 6

12:15 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Presentation 7

14:30 – 15:00 Wrap up