



MA Seminar Comparative Politics/Globalization
Summer term 2019 (2SS1)
Tuesday, 08:15-10:00 am
Raum: Ernst-Lohmeyer-Platz 3 - Raum 3.28

How identities matter

SYLLABUS

Seminar description

Identities come in various forms including ethnicity, immigrant background, religion, gender, sexuality, or income. They shape the political interests and behavior of citizens and voters, as well as of politicians such as representatives, ministers and heads of government. In a globalized world, two types of identity claims emerge: On the one hand, liberal claims for ethnic, gender and sexual equality are on the forefront. On the other hand, conservative claims for the protection traditional values and nationhood increase in popularity. This leads to a high potential for conflicts both within and between countries. In this seminar, we jointly engage with the literature concerned with the role of identities in comparative politics and international relations. At the end of the semester, students will have a complete picture of the impact of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and income on politics and policies.

At the beginning of the semester, several sessions will be dedicated to theory. We will define the meaning of "identity" and differentiate the concept from related ones such as party affiliation or individual characteristics. Furthermore, we discuss the theories that relate identities to the behavior of political actors such as voters or states.

Building on these foundations, the remainder of the seminar is organized along four sets of political actors who might be driven by identities: Voters, representatives in parliaments, governments, and states. In the first block focusing on voters, we will, among other things, discuss the increasing support for right-wing populist parties in the electorate and how this development relates to globalization. When talking about representatives, students will, for instance, discuss the role of LGBTQ legislators in parliament and to what extent their legislative activities are driven by their sexual identities. One of the topics covered in the sessions on governments will be the impact of female heads of government on foreign policy decisions. During the final sessions dedicated to the international level, we will, inter alia, discuss to what extent strengthening national identities create pressure on the European Union.

You can choose to either participate in this seminar as part of the module "Comparative Politics" or "Globalization".

At the end of the term, students will

1. be able to define the concept identity and explain why identities matter for political behavior from a theoretical perspective.
2. have understood how identities influence the behavior of different sets of actors such as voters, representatives, parties, and governments and how this impacts political decision-making at the national and international level.
3. know how identities and their role in politics changes due to globalization.

4. have developed solid expertise of the sets of literature emerging around different types of identities and their relevance for the studies of comparative politics and international relations and can clarify their communalities and differences.
5. have strengthened their capacity to understand, communicate, and evaluate research in the field of comparative politics and international relations and to relate research from the two fields to each other.

Schedule

Tuesday, April 21	Session 1:	Introduction and basics
Tuesday, April 28	Session 2:	Defining identities
Tuesday, May 5	Session 3:	Theoretical perspectives on identities
Tuesday, May 12	Session 4:	Voters
Tuesday, May 19	Session 5:	Parliaments
Tuesday, May 26	Session 6:	Parties
Tuesday, June 2	Session 7:	Governments
Tuesday, June 9	Session 8:	Changing identities
Tuesday, June 16	Session 9:	Intersectionality and backlash
Tuesday, June 23	Session 10:	Immigrant Inclusion
Tuesday, June 30	Session 11:	Presentation of term papers
Tuesday, July 7	Session 12:	Concluding Session

Please note that we only have twelve sessions and that each session will be from 8:15 to 10:00AM, i.e. last for 105 minutes.

Workload

The total workload for this seminar is 150 hours. This includes 30 hours of attendance in class, circa 60 hours for class preparation and about 60 hours for the term paper.

Attendance regulations

Discussions in class increase your chances to study successfully. The professor intends to create a productive, interactive, and learning-oriented atmosphere in class. In return, she expects students to read the weakly readings carefully, attend class and participate actively. Students' thoughts and comments concerning the organization of the class are highly welcome at any time.

Term paper

Globalization: Students will have to prepare a term paper and present their research agenda in class. They can choose any topic related to politics and identities and address it from an international relations' perspective. The paper should be no longer than 15 pages.

Comparative Politics: Students will have to prepare a term paper and present their research agenda in class. They can choose any topic related to politics and identities and address it from a comparative perspective. However, students shall also draw on literature relating to their second seminar in the Comparative Politics module. The paper should be no longer than 25 pages.

The deadline for term paper submissions is 1st of September 2020. Students will prepare a brief outline until 26th of June 2020. This outline will be presented in session 11. Additionally, each student

will function as a discussant for another student's term paper. Detailed guidelines on the term paper and presentation will be provided in session 7.

Session content and readings

Theoretical foundations

Session 1

Topic *Introduction and basics*

Date Tuesday, 21 April 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description In the first session, we discuss the schedule of the seminar and how to pass successfully. We further start by discussing which attributes create politically meaningful identities and why identities matter in politics.

Session 2

Topic *Defining identities*

Date Tuesday, 28 April 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description This session aims to create a shared understanding of the term identity. We discuss the definition of the term and how it might be captured in empirical research. Furthermore, we take into account different theoretical explanations for the emergence of identities and how they matter for individuals' political action.

Readings Hogg, M., Terry, D., & White, K. (1995). A Tale of Two Theories: A Critical Comparison of Identity Theory with Social Identity Theory. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 58(4), 255-269.

Abdelal, R., Herrera, Y., Johnston, A., & McDermott, R. (2006). Identity as a Variable. *Perspectives on Politics* 4(4), 695-711.

Session 3

Topic *Theoretical perspectives on identities*

Date Tuesday, 5 May 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description In our third session, we reflect on what it means to explain political behavior based on identities. We discuss when and under which conditions political action might be driven by identities, interests, or both.

Readings Smith, R. (2004). Identities, Interests, and the Future of Political Science. *Perspectives on Politics* 2(2), 301-312.

Choi, J. (2015). Rationality, norms and identity in international relations. *International Politics* 52, 110-127.

Political actors and their identities

Session 4

Topic *Voters*

Date Tuesday, 12 May 2020, 08:15-09:45h

Description During the course of this session, our aim is to discuss the role of identities for voters and voting behavior. In the first part of the session, we zoom into the role of ethnicity and under which conditions ethnic voting emerges. In the second part, we discuss the role of national identities for support for radical right parties in Europe.

Readings Houle, C., Park, C., & Kenny, P. D. (2019). The structure of ethnic inequality and ethnic voting. *The Journal of Politics* 81(1), 187-200.

Lubbers, M., & Coenders, M. (2017). Nationalistic attitudes and voting for the radical right in Europe. *European Union Politics* 18(1), 98-118.

Session 5

Topic *Parliaments*

Date Tuesday, 19 May 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description The second set of actors we take into account are representatives. We ask, whether and under which conditions identities drive legislative behavior. As a first relevant identity, we zoom into LGBTQ* legislators and their impact on legislative outcomes. Afterwards, we ask to what degree national representatives display a European identity in parliamentary debates.

Readings Reynolds, A. (2013). Representation and rights: The impact of LGBT legislators in comparative perspective. *American Political Science Review* 107(2), 259-274.

Kinski, L. (2018). Whom to represent? National parliamentary representation during the eurozone crisis. *Journal of European Public Policy* 25(3), 346-368.

Session 6

Topic *Parties*

Date Tuesday, 26 May 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description This session is dedicated to parties as identity-based actors. We start by discussing ethnic parties and how electoral systems impact their likelihood to succeed in elections. Afterwards, we ask to what extent identity threat arguments shape the narratives of right-wing populist parties.

Readings Lublin, D. (2017). Electoral Systems, Ethnic Heterogeneity and Party System Fragmentation. *British Journal of Political Science* 47(2), 373-389

Hogan, J., & Haltinner, K. (2015). Floods, invaders, and parasites: Immigration threat narratives and right-wing populism in the USA, UK and Australia. *Journal of Intercultural Studies* 36(5), 520-543.

Session 7

Topic *Governments*

Date Tuesday, 2 June 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description The last set of actors we take into account are members of the government. We start by studying the role of Angela Merkel's identity as a woman from Eastern Europe for her Foreign Policy strategies. Furthermore, we investigate the role of female ministers for policy outcomes and to what extent their shared experience with women drives their policy agenda.

Readings Yoder, J. A. (2011). An Intersectional Approach to Angela Merkel's Foreign Policy. *German Politics* 20(3), 360-375.

Atchison, A. (2015). The impact of female cabinet ministers on a female-friendly labor environment. *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy* 36(4), 388-414.

Outlook

Session 8

Topic *Changing identities*

Date Tuesday, 9 June 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description In this session, we study identity change over time and as a consequence of globalization and europeanization. We start by investigating how postmodern values spread in a globalized world. Afterwards, we move on to the debate over a European vs. national identity and how these two concepts developed during European crises.

Readings Inglehart, R. (2000). Globalization and postmodern values. *Washington Quarterly* 23(1), 215-228.

Börzel, T. A., & Risse, T. (2018). From the euro to the Schengen crises: European integration theories, politicization, and identity politics. *Journal of European Public Policy* 25(1), 83-108.

Session 9

Topic *Intersectionality and Backlash*

Date Tuesday, 16 June 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description This session takes into account how identities overlap. We discuss how holding various identities impacts political representation. Moreover, we introduce the idea of backlash, i.e. opposition to change in power relations between identity groups and ask to what extent we find evidence for backlash against women in politics.

Readings Severs, E., Celis, K., & Erzeel, S. (2016). Power, privilege and disadvantage: Intersectionality theory and political representation. *Politics* 36(4), 346-354.

Krook, M. L. (2015). Empowerment versus backlash: gender quotas and critical mass theory. *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 3(1), 184-188.

Session 10

Topic *Immigrant inclusion*

Date Tuesday, 23 June 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description In this session, we will address the challenges of measuring immigrant rights. Beyond, we will discuss up-to-date research on role of the European Union on the inclusiveness (or exclusiveness) of modern nation states.

Readings Blatter, J., Schmid, S. D., and Blättler, A. C. (2017). Democratic Deficits in Europe: The Overlooked Exclusiveness of Nation-States and the Positive Role of the European Union. *Journal of Common Market Studies* 55 (3), 449-467.

Brubaker, R. (1990). Immigration, Citizenship, and the Nation-State in France and Germany: A Comparative Historical Analysis. *International Sociology* 5 (4), 379-407.

Session 11

Topic *Presentation of term papers*

Date Tuesday, 20 June 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description In this session, students present their term papers. For that purpose, they prepare a handout including the following information:

- (1) Research question the aim to answer
- (2) Three most important pieces of related literature
- (3) Hypothesis they aim to test
- (4) Research design they want to use.

They will send the handout to their discussant and the instructor.

Readings Hacker, D. (2007). A writer's reference, Boston, Bedford, ch.1-6.

Session 12

Topic *Concluding session*

Date Tuesday, 7 July 2020, 08:15-10:00h

Description In this session, we will reflect on the content of the seminar. We conclude to what extent and how identities impact contemporary politics in a globalized world. We further discuss the role of identities for constructivist research in international relations and comparative politics.

Readings Finnemore, M., and Sikkink, K. (2001). Taking stock: The constructivist research program in international relations and comparative politics. *Annual Review of Political Science* 4(1), 391-416.
