

WiSe 2018/2019

Populism: The People versus the Elite

Fr. 12.00-14.00 in PEG 2G. 107

Block session: Saturday, January 26, 10:00-18:00 in PEG 2G. 107

Course description

In this course we will study the concept of populism and its empirical expressions in comparative perspective. The study of populism has gained renewed attention recently, due to the rise of populist forces to power in both new and established democracies across the globe. In the first part of the course, we will trace the debate about the elusive concept of populism by discussing the work of classic theorists like Ernesto Laclau and Margaret Canovan as well as contemporary contributions to the debate. In the second part of the course, we will then investigate empirical examples of populism and discuss different ways of measuring and analysing populism in comparative perspective.

Teaching approach

The goal of the course is to augment each student's ability to analyse and evaluate complex social phenomena. More specifically, students will be trained to understand the promises and pitfalls of concept formation and its consequences for the measurement of social phenomena. They will improve their written and oral English skills and learn to work in teams.

Requirements

Students should be able to understand and articulate themselves in English as this will be the general classroom language. Of course, perfection is not required but you should be able to make yourself understood.

- **Teilnahmebescheinigung**: regular and active participation in class, preparation of the assigned readings before the session, in-class presentation (oral presentation, ca. 15 min) or literature report (5 pages).
- **Modulabschluss**: regular and active participation in class, preparation of the assigned readings before the session, in-class presentation (oral presentation, ca. 15 min) and a course paper (10-15 pages). Deadline for course papers is February 28, 2019; themes of the course papers need to be coordinated beforehand with the lecturer.

The required reading materials are available via the following resources: 1) OLAT; 2) Online library via <https://hds.hebis.de/ubffm/Discover/Home>; 3) Semesterapparat

Syllabus & Reading Assignments

General reading recommendation

- Hawkins, Kirk A., Ryan E. Carlin, Levente Littvay, and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser (forthcoming): *The Ideational Approach to Populism. Concept, Theory, and Analysis*. London: Routledge (hereafter: **IAPforthcoming**).
- Rovira Kaltwasser, Cristóbal, Paul Taggart, Paulina Ochoa Espejo, and Pierre Ostiguy. (2017): *The Oxford Handbook of Populism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (hereafter **OHP2017**).

Session 1 (October 19): Introduction and housekeeping

Required readings:

- Mudde, Cas and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser (2018): “Studying Populism in Comparative Perspective: Reflections on the Contemporary and Future Research Agenda”, *Comparative Political Studies*, first published July 26, [doi: 10.1177/0010414018789490](https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414018789490).

Session 2 (October 26): Normative theories on populism (and democracy)

Required readings:

- Laclau, Ernesto (2005): *On Populist Reason*. London: Verso, **pp. 1-20**.
- Canovan, Margaret (1999): Trust the People! Populism and the Two Faces of Democracy. *Political Studies*, 47(1), **2-16**.
- Urbinati, Nadja (1998): “Democracy and Populism”, *Constellations*, 5(1), **110-124**.

Session 3 (November 2): Concept formation in social science

Required readings:

- Sartori, Giovanni (1970): “Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics”, *The American Political Science Review*, 64(4): **1033-1053**.
- Collier, David and James E. Mahon, Jr. (1993): “Conceptual ‘Stretching’ Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis”, *The American Political Science Review*, 87(4): **845-855**.

Session 4 (November 9): The contested concept of populism I

Required readings:

- Weyland, Kurt (2017): “Populism: A Political-Strategic Approach”, in **OHP2017**, pp. 48-72.
- Ostiguy, Pierre (2017): “Populism: A Socio-Cultural Approach”, in **OHP2017**, pp. 73-98.

Session 5 (November 16): The contested concept of populism II

Required readings:

- Hawkins, Kirk A. and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser (2017): “The Ideational Approach to Populism”, *Latin American Research Review*, 52(4): **513-528**.
- Mudde, Cas (2004): “The Populist Zeitgeist”, *Government and Opposition*, 39(4): **541-563**.
- Aslanidis, Paris (2016): “Is Populism an Ideology? A Refutation and a New Perspective”, *Political Studies*, 64(1S): **88-104**.

Session 6 (November 23): Core ideas of populism I – „The People”

Required readings:

- Canovan, Margaret (2002): “Taking Politics to the People: Populism as the Ideology of Democracy”, in Mény, Yves and Yves Surel (Eds.): *Democracies and the Populist Challenge*. New York: Palgrave, **pp. 25-43**.
- Ochoa Espejo, Paulina (2017): “Populism and the Idea of The People”, in **OHP2017**, pp. 607-628.

Optional readings:

- Laclau, Ernesto (2005): *On Populist Reason*. London: Verso, pp. 67-128 (select pages!!!).
- Canovan, Margaret (2005): *The People*. Cambridge: Polity.

Session 7 (November 30): Core ideas of populism II: „The Elite”

Required readings:

- Caramani, Daniele (2017). “Will vs. Reason: The Populist and Technocratic Forms of Political Representation and Their Critique to Party Government”, *The American Political Science Review*, 111(1): **54-67**.
- Mair, Peter (2002): “Populist Democracy vs Party Democracy”, in Mény, Yves and Yves Surel (Eds.): *Democracies and the Populist Challenge*. New York: Palgrave, **pp. 81-98**.

Session 8 (December 7): Core ideas of populism III: “People VERSUS Elite”

Required readings:

- Hawkins, Kirk A. (2010). *Venezuela’s Chavismo and Populism in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, **pp. 29-38**.
- Kriesi, Hanspeter (2014): “The Populist Challenge”, *West European Politics*, 37(2): **361-378**.
- Taggart, Paul (2004): “Populism and representative politics in contemporary Europe”, *Journal of Political Ideologies*, 9(3): **269-288**.

Session 9 (December 14): Correlates of populism: organization, leadership, charisma

Required readings:

- Roberts, Kenneth M. (2006): “Populism, Political Conflict, and Grass-Roots Organization in Latin America”, *Comparative Politics*, 38(2), **127-148**.
- Levitsky, Steven and James Loxton (2013): “Populism and Competitive Authoritarianism in the Andes”, *Democratization*, 20(1): **107-136**.
- McDonnell, Duncan (2016): “Populist Leaders and Coterie Charisma”, *Political Studies*, 64(3): **719-733**.

Session 10 (December 21): no class

Session 11 (January 18): Measures of populism

Required readings:

- Hawkins, Kirk A. and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser (forthcoming): Introduction: the ideational approach, in *IAPforthcoming*, pp. 1-24.
- Aslanidis, Paris (2018): “Measuring populist discourse with semantic text analysis: an application on grassroots populist mobilization”, *Quality & Quantity*, 52(3): 1241-1263.

Optional readings:

- Hawkins, Kirk A. and Bruno Castanho Silva (forthcoming): Textual analysis: big data approaches, in *IAPforthcoming*, pp. 27-48.
- Wiesehomeier, Nina (forthcoming): Expert surveys, in *IAPforthcoming*, pp. 90-111.
- Andradis, Ioannis and Saskia P. Ruth-Lovell (forthcoming): Elite surveys, in *IAPforthcoming*, pp. 112-127.
- Hauwaert, Steven M., Christian H. Schimpf, and Flavio Azevedo (forthcoming): “Public opinion surveys: evaluating existing measures”, in *IAPforthcoming*, pp. 128-149.

Block session 12-14 (Saturday, January 26, 10am-6pm): Populism in comparative perspective

Required readings:

- Aslanidis, Paris (2017): “Avoiding Bias in the Study of Populism”, *Chinese Political Science Review*, 2(3): 266-287.
- Mudde, Cas and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser (2018): “Studying Populism in Comparative Perspective: Reflections on the Contemporary and Future Research Agenda”, *Comparative Political Studies*, first published July 26, [doi: 10.1177/0010414018789490](https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414018789490).

Optional readings:

- *OHP2017*, Part II Regions (with individual chapters on Africa, Australia/ New Zealand, Central and Eastern Europe, East Asia, India, Latin America, Post-Soviet States, United States, Western Europe).

Session 15 (February 15): Academic writing and course evaluation