
Where did the Party Go? Origins and Consequences of Party Position and Party Movement

University of Greifswald - 2022 - Wed 4-6pm - ELP3, Room 3.28

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Office hours: Friday 9-12

1 Abstract

In this seminar, we will look at party position and party movement. We start by looking at what party positions tell us about the nature of the party and possible influences on specific policies. Next, we will look at polarisation of party systems, its origins and consequences. Regional differences of party systems, especially between Western and Eastern Europe, will also be discussed. In the first half of the seminar, an important question is how to measure party position and party change. Not only will we analyse different quantifications and discuss its advantages and disadvantages, we will also look at comparability of these measurements as well as the number of dimensions to be estimated. The second half of the seminar deals with party movement specifically. We will try to answer the following questions: What moves parties? Is there a difference between party families? Do new parties, e.g. green or radical-right parties, make a difference? Does internal structure influence party movement? What consequences are there for parties when changing their position? In the end, students should be able to write a seminar paper that uses political parties generally or specifically as a variable.

2 Course Requirements

2.1 Readings

Each week, there will be a short reading, which is necessary to follow the course. The **mandatory reading is marked by ***, whereas the second reading is not compulsory and will be discussed in the presentation. However, since we are not enough people to cover all readings, you should read at least abstract and conclusion of the non-mandatory paper as well.

2.2 Presentation

You will have to give a presentation on an assigned text. The presentation should last **15-20 minutes**. You should include discussion questions and (if possible) examples and comparisons to other seminars or literature you may know of. Slides should be send to me no later than 10am the day of the presentation.

2.3 Proposals for term papers

No matter whether you decide to write your term paper in this seminar or another one, you have the opportunity to present a proposal for your research design in the last two weeks of the semester. We will discuss all proposals in detail and give you feedback.

2.4 Term Paper in *one* CP seminar

In the end, you will have to write a seminar paper answering a research question of your choice in one of the two Comparative Politics seminars. About **20-25 pages** are required. The paper needs to address the research question empirically. Deadline is **31/08/2022**. You are encouraged to come talk to me about your research question or any problems you may encounter.

3 Course Structure

1 Introduction

No reading required.

2 Why measure party position? Partisan theory applied to the welfare state

Kwon, Hyeok Yong and Jonas Pontusson (2010): Globalization, labour power and partisan politics revisited. *Socio-Economic Review* 8(2): 251-281.*

Savage, Lee (2019): The politics of social spending after the great recession. The return of partisan policy making. *Governance* 32(1): 123-141.

3 Measuring party position

Laver, Michael (2014): Measuring policy positions in political space. *Annual Review of Political Science* 17: 207-223. *

Aldrich, John, Jacob Montgomery and David Sparks (2014): Polarization and ideology. Partisan sources of low dimensionality in scaled roll call analyses. *Political Analysis* 22(4): 435-456.

4 Polarization

Dalton, Russel (2008): The quantity and the quality of party systems. Party system polarization, its measurement, and its consequences. *Comparative Political Studies* 41(7): 899-920. *

Moral, Mert and Robin E Best (2022): On the relationship between party polarization and citizen polarization. *Party Politics* 0(0): 1-19.

5 Public Opinion and past election results as stimulants of party position change

Abou-Chadi, Tarik and Lukas Stoetzer (2020): How parties react to voter transitions. *American Political Science Review* 114(3): 940-945. *

Adams, James, Michael Clark, Lawrence Ezrow, and Garrett Glasgow (2004). Understanding change and stability in party ideologies: do parties respond to public opinion or to past election results?. *British Journal of Political Science* 34(4): 589-610.

6 Differences in Central-Eastern and Western Europe

Marks, Gary, Liebet Hooghe, Moira Nelson and Erica Edwards (2006): Party Competition and EU integration in the East and West. Different structure, same causality. *Comparative Political Studies* 39(2): 155-175. *

Bergman, Torbjörn, Gabriella Ionszki, and Wolfgang C. Müller (2020): Coalition Governance in Central Eastern Europe. *Oxford University Press*: Chapter 13.

7 Issue Salience

Baumann, Markus, Marc Debus and Martin Gross (2021): Strategic issue emphasis in parties' election campaign statements. *Party Politics* 27(3): 515-527. *

Johnston, Samuel and Stefanie Sprong (2022): Seeking an adversary. The radical right and the salience of pro-immigration positions in green party speeches. *Party Politics* 0(0): 1-12.

8 Party families: populist parties

Dassonnevielle, Ruth and Ian McAllister (2021): Are they different? A comparative study of European populist party members. *Party Politics* 0(0): 1-10. *

Huber, Robert and Christian Schimpf (2016): A drunken guest in Europe? The influence of populist radical right parties on democratic quality. *Zeitschrift für vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* 10(2): 103-129.

9 Party families: niche and green parties and mainstream parties' response

Meyer, Thomas and Markus Wagner (2013): Mainstream or Niche? Vote-seeking incentives and the programmatic strategies of political parties. *Comparative Political Studies* 46(10): 1246-1272. *

Abou-Chadi, Tarik (2016): Niche Party success and mainstream party policy shifts. How Green and Radical Right parties differ in their impact. *British Journal of Political Science* 46(2): 417-436.

10 Internal divisions and party cohesion

Sältzer, Marius (2022): Finding the bird's wings. Dimensions of factional conflict on Twitter. *Party Politics* 28(1): 61-70. *

Russell, Meg (2014): Parliamentary party cohesion. Some explanations from psychology. *Party Politics* 20(5): 712-723.

11 Leadership, party structure and party elites

Schumacher, Gijs, Catherine de Vries and Barbara Vis (2013): Why do parties change position? Party organization and environmental incentives. *The Journal of Politics* 75(2): 464-477. *

Berz, Jan and Michael Jankowski (2022): Local preferences in candidate selection. Evidence from a conjoint experiment among party leaders in Germany. *Party Politics* 0(0): 1-14.

12 Consequences of party change: election results

Adams, James (2012): Causes and Electoral Consequences of Party Policy Shifts in Multi-party Elections. Theoretical Results and Empirical Evidence. *Annual Review of Political Science* 15: 401-412. *

Van Erkel, Patrick (2021): The odd one out. The influence of ideological positioning on individual electoral success. *Party Politics* 36(0): 1-12.

13 Presentation of proposals I

No reading required.

14 Presentation of proposals II & Semester Wrap-Up

No reading required.