

Party Politics in Central and Eastern Europe

Junprof. Dr. Christina Isabel Zuber

Summer term 2016, Thursdays 15:15 - 16:45 and Saturday, 2 July 2016

Description

Sixteen years have passed since democratic multi-party elections replaced communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe. Is party competition different in these countries or can we agree with Rovny and Edwards (2012: 56) that “while the structure of political conflict in Eastern versus Western Europe could not be more different, the logic with which parties compete in their respective systems is the same”? This seminar analyses party competition in CEE countries. The goal is to understand and explain differences and similarities in the party politics of democracies that all share a communist experience. We will focus on topics such as the formation of party systems and the impact of communist and pre-communist legacies, stability and change of party systems as new parties form or existing parties change their labels; the structure of the political space and the meaning of “left” and “right” and party strategies in competition, including the role of clientelism and populism. Participants will then select cases for a comparison dealing with one of the topics introduced throughout the seminar. They will present (and comment on) each others’ case studies during a block session at the end of the semester.

Goals

Participants know the main concepts from the literature on party politics. They can identify differences and similarities in the development of competitive party systems between the Central and Eastern European democracies. They know the advantages and disadvantages of different methods to measure party positions. They understand the logic of case selection for comparative research and are able to critically assess the case selection and empirical analyses in published research on party politics in CEE. They are able to select and compare cases from the universe of CEE countries focusing on one of the topics discussed throughout the seminar in their term paper.

Requirements and modalities

Requirements for this course are threefold: First, you come to class having carefully read and thought about the assigned reading materials for the week, and participate actively in class discussions. You may fail to attend two sessions. Please note that the Saturday workshop at the end of the course counts as three individual sessions.

Second, you write one 1-2 page (double spaced, times new roman or similar, 12pt) review of one of the assigned readings. You can choose for yourself for which session and on which article you want to do your review. The review must be submitted by midnight of the day before the day the text you chose to review is due to be discussed in class. The idea behind the review is that by writing a critique that addresses all elements a good research paper should include, you become better prepared to write your own.

Third, you develop, present at the workshop and hand in a study on your chosen topic related to party competition. You are free to choose your cases from the universe of CEE democracies, and you are also free to do a small or a medium-N comparison or a quantitative large N analysis. The research paper should be appr. 10-12 pages (double spaced, times new roman or similar, 12pt), and should cover a clearly stated research question, theory and hypotheses to answer the question, a justified case selection, the chosen methodological approach and an empirical analysis. It must be submitted by 15 September 2016. A short handout of your presentation at the Workshop must be submitted by noon of June 30, 2016 to give your discussant a chance to prepare comments for July 2, 2016.

Course evaluations will be based on a combination of in-class participation (10%), the review (10%), performance during the workshop (20%) and the research paper (60%). Late submissions will lower your grade by 0.3 for each day your work is overdue, unless you provide a justified excuse on time. Please note that a student job does not count as a justified excuse.

I will provide you with more detailed guidelines on how to write a review and a research paper in class. I will also provide guidance on narrowing down your topic for the research paper. Please note that I have zero tolerance for plagiarism, which according to the Oxford Dictionary (online edition) is defined as “the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own”. Students caught plagiarising will automatically fail the seminar. For further information see e.g Jones, Lars R. (2011): *Academic Integrity & Academic Dishonesty: A Handbook About Cheating & Plagiarism*, Revised & Expanded Edition. Available at <http://www.fit.edu/current/documents/plagiarism.pdf>.

Recommended literature to prepare for the seminar

- Sartori, G. 1976. *Parties and party systems: A framework for analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kitschelt, H., Mansfeldowa, Z., Markowski, R. & Toka, G. 1999. *Post-Communist Party Systems: Competition, Representation, and Inter-Party Cooperation*. Cambridge University Press.
- White, S., Batt, J., & Lewis, P. G. (Eds.). 2007. *Developments in Central and East European Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press (chapters 9 and 11).

Individual sessions and literature to be prepared for each week

14 April 2016. Introduction.

For this first session, you do not have to prepare any material. We will introduce the topic of the seminar and discuss our plan for the whole semester.

21 April 2016. Key concepts I: Parties and Party Systems

- Sartori, G. [1976]. 2005. *Parties and party systems: A framework for analysis*. Colchester: ECPR Press: p. 50-62; 105-128; 164-178; 260-261; 267-284.

28 April 2016. Key concepts II: Competition within and about political space

- Robertson, David. On the dimensionality of political space and on its inhabitants. In: Bara J and Weale AP (eds) *Democratic Politics and Party Competition: Essays in Honour Of Ian Budge*. London, New York: Routledge, pp. 159–178.
- Elias, Anwen, Edina Szöcsik and Christina Isabel Zuber. 2015. Position, selective emphasis and framing: How parties deal with a second dimension in competition in competition, *Party Politics* 21(6): 839–850.

5 May 2016. No session: public holiday

12 May 2016. The formation of party systems in post-communist democracies

- Kitschelt, Herbert. 1995. Formation of Party Cleavages in Post-Communist Democracies. Theoretical Propositions. *Party Politics* 1(4): 447-472.
- Evans, Geoffrey and Stephen Whitefield. 1998. The Structuring of Political Cleavages in Post-Communist Societies: the Case of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. *Political Studies* 46:1, 115-139.

19 May 2016. Non-programmatic linkages: Clientelism and patronage

- Kopecký, Peter. 2006. Political parties and the state in post-communist Europe: The nature of symbiosis. *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics*, 22:3, 251-273.
- Kopecký, Peter and Maria Spirova. 2011. Jobs for the Boys? Patterns of Party Patronage in Post-Communist Europe, *West European Politics*, 34:5, 897-921.

26 May 2016. No session: public holiday

2 June 2016. No session (I am teaching in Belgrade), session enters into workshop

9 June 2016. Why parties cooperate – electoral alliances

- Ibenskas, Raimondas. 2015. Understanding Pre-electoral Coalitions in Central and Eastern Europe. *British Journal of Political Science*. Published online: 23 February 2015. DOI: 10.1017/S0007123414000544.

16 June 2016. Research practice session: Measuring party positions

- Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. 2006. *Party Policy in Modern Democracies*. London: Routledge, p. 56-77.

23 June 2016. Programmatic linkages: economy, values and European integration

- Rovny, Jan, & Erica E. Edwards. 2012. Struggle Over Dimensionality: Political Competition in Western and Eastern Europe. *East European Politics and Societies* 26 (1): 56-74.
- Whitefield, Stephen and Robert Rohrschneider. 2015. The Salience of European Integration to Party Competition: Western and Eastern Europe Compared. *East European Politics & Societies* 29(1): 12-39.

30 June 2016. Stability and Change

- Tavits, Margit. 2007. Party Systems in the Making: The Emergence and Success of New Parties in New Democracies. *British Journal of Political Science* 38: 113–133.

SATURDAY 2 July 2016

Workshop on Party Politics in Central and Eastern Europe, 10.00-16.00h, Room tba