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Sommersemester 2018: 15072 – Varieties of Institutions and Institutional Change – The Case of Germany

Friday, 10-12 Uhr

Ihnestr. 22 – UG 2

Summary

The “German Model” has informed many theories of institutional difference. Whether it concerns the interplay between governments and business or its political organization, many theories treat Germany as an archetypical case. But while the institutional configuration of Germany maintains a distinct character, it has also undergone considerable changes in the last 30 years. In light of this ambiguity, how can we theorize the persistence and change of the German model?

Placing the German case in its empirical center, this seminar will explore different theories about the role of institutions in politics and on the dynamics through which these institutions evolve and change over time. The goals of this seminar are twofold: Theoretically, the seminar aims to establish an understanding of institutionalist analysis and the ways in which we can conceptualize change and continuity. Empirically, these theories will be used to trace out developments in German political economy and Varieties of Capitalism.

The language of instruction and reading will be English.

Logistics

Readings are provided on blackboard.

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:30 or by appointment. Please make appointments by going to <https://calendly.com/cgnguyen/sprechstunde>

Email Policy: I try to respond to emails within 24 hours. To discuss substantive questions, please come and see me during office hours.

Expected Workload:

Participation (Teilnahmeschein)

Active participation in weekly discussions and leading class discussions for one seminar.

Exam (Leistungsschein)

Participation + essay (4500 words excluding bibliography)

Seminar Structure and Participation

The seminar consists of two equal parts. In the first half, I will give a relatively short (45-60 minutes) introduction to the themes of the class. In the second half, we will discuss the lecture and the readings. For this discussion, your participation will be crucial. Management of the discussion will be conducted by a student each week.

I expect everyone to participate in the seminar. Since classroom discussion is a crucial component of the seminar, it is important that everyone has finished the readings before the beginning of the class, but we will review the reading in class as well. I would also be happy to hear questions that connect the readings, either to other themes we have discussed previously or to current events.

Facilitating the discussion

The second half of the class will focus on discussions. This discussion should be led by one student. For the discussions, you can draw on the material for the class, but you are also expected to include your own thoughts and discussion prompts. I hope that these discussions will not only help us to understand the readings better, but also to connect them to themes of the class as a whole. Slots for the facilitator are found on blackboard. Please sign up as soon as possible.

Essay

Please submit your essays both electronically and in print by September 28th, 2018. You are free to develop the topic of the essay in line with your own interests and the themes discussed in the class. Please come and see me during office-hours to discuss your essay.

Seminar Outline

S1 Introductory Lecture 20.4.2018

Basics of Institutional Theory

S2 What are Institutions? 27.4.2018

Hodgson, G. M. (2006). What are institutions? *Journal of Economic Issues*, 40(1), 1–25.

S3 Approaches to studying Institutions 4.5.2018

Hall, P. a., & Taylor, R. C. R. (1996). Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms. *Political Studies*, 44(5), 936–957.

Intuitional Change and Varieties of Capitalism

S4 Germany, Coordinated Market Economies and Varieties of Capitalism 11.5.2018

Hall, P. A., & Soskice, D. (2001). An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism. In *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage* (pp. 1–33).

Sections 1.1 to 1.4 (p. 1 -33) are required reading. The rest of the chapter is optional.

S5 Institutional Change I: Critical Junctures and Path Dependence 18.5.2018

Pierson, P. (2000). Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics. *The American Political Science Review*, 94(2), 251.

S6 Specific Case Study: Reunification 25.5.2018

Locke, R. M., & Jacoby, W. (1997). The Dilemmas of Diffusion: Social Embeddedness and the Problems of Institutional Change in Eastern Germany. *Politics & Society*, 25(1), 34–65.

S7 Institutional Change II: Gradual Change 1.6.2018

Mahoney, J., & Thelen, K. A. (2010). A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change. In *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power* (pp. 1–37).

S8 Intuitional Change in Varieties of Capitalism 8.6.2018

Jackson, G., & Sorge, A. (2012). The trajectory of institutional change in Germany, 1979–2009. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 19(8), 1146–1167.

For an alternative perspective see:

Thelen, K. (2009). Institutional change in advanced political economies. *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 47(3), 471–498.

Discursive Institutionalism and Ideas

S9 The Discursive Turn in Institutional Analysis 15.6.2018

Schmidt, V. a. (2008). Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 11(1), 303–326.

S10 Ideas and Interests in Varieties of Capitalism I 22.6.2018

Kinderman, D. (2016). Challenging varieties of capitalism's account of business interests: Neoliberal think-tanks, discourse as a power resource and employers' quest for liberalization in Germany and Sweden. *Socio-Economic Review*, 15 (3)

S11 DNA: Application and Training 29.6.2018

This class may be moved , pending availability of the computer room.

(No need for Discussion)

S12 Ideas and Interests in Varieties of Capitalism II 6.7.2018

Wueest, B., & Fossati, F. (2015). Quantitative discursive institutionalism: a comparison of labour market policy discourse across Western Europe. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 22(5), 708–730. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2014.976834>

Institutional Theory: Additional Applications

S13 Free Topic Choice I and Colloquium 1 13.7.2018

TBD

S14 Free Topic Choice II and Colloquium 2 20.7.2018

TBD