

Populist radical right-wing politics in the contemporary world

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Course description

The content of the course

In this course we learn about how the emergence of populist radical right-wing parties and movements in the world, from the 1980s until today, can be understood. The course provides theoretical and empirical knowledge about the *ideology, organization, strategies, and policy impact*, of these parties and movements, the reasons for *voter support*, and how differences in mobilization across countries and over time can be explained. The course reading covers cutting-edge research within several social science disciplines, including e.g., political science, economics, and psychology, but the main focus is on political sociology.

Expected results

Knowledge and understanding:

After the course the student should

- have acquired an adequate overview of the important facets of previous research within this field
- understand the reasons for the emergence of populist radical right-wing parties and movements and be familiar with explanations of cross-national and over-time differences and similarities
- have knowledge about how political sociology has contributed to this field of research

Abilities and competences:

After the course the student should be able to

- make own analyses of new developments in, or new manifestations of, populist radical right-wing politics

Values and perspectives

After the course the student should be able to

- Critically read new research on populist radical right-wing politics and decide if it makes a contributions to this field of research

Teaching

Teaching will be in the form of teacher-led seminars, one per week for ten weeks. Students are expected to read the required texts before each seminar, and to participate in seminar discussions in an active and informed way.

Examinations

The students are expected to write a course paper of approximately 5,000 to 6,000 words, based on the required course literature and on addition reading when relevant. The students are expected to formulate a research question themselves, in consultation with the teacher.

Course literature

Rydgren, J. ed. 2018. *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 750 pages. (Available as digital resource at the university library)

Selection of journal articles.

Schedule

1. Introduction: What is the Populist Radical Right and how can it be understood?
2. Nationalism and anti-immigration
3. Populism
4. Demand side explanations 1: Economic grievances
5. Demand side explanations 2: Perceived cultural threat
6. Supply side explanations 1: Cleavages and macro-level processes
7. Supply side explanations 2: Political factors
8. Activists and party organization
9. Internet and the media
10. Political impact