Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg



Department of Comparative Politics

Prof. Dr. Thomas Saalfeld

**Winter Semester 2015/2016**

Proseminar (BA)

**Proseminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft**

**Political Extremism**

Time: Mondays, 12.00-14.00

Venue: FMA/01.20

Start Date: 12 October 2015

Registration in

FlexNow!: 01.10.-13.10.2015 (Deregistration until 20.10.2015)

Instructor: Ben Rayder MA

**Prerequisites / Zulassungsvoraussetzungen**

NA

**Assessment / Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises**

Presentation and Final Term Paper

Possible ECTS: 5 (6 according to the old examination regulations up to 2015 and minor subject)

**Programme / Inhalt**

The adherence to a precise logic and specified methods is an essential component of comparative research in political science. The purpose of this proseminar is twofold. First we will learn the fundamental aspects and important features of research design. We will attempt to develop a set of working criteria that can also be applied to assessments of research designs in the secondary literature about political extremism. Particular attention will be devoted to identifying gaps in the research, the development of a proper theory, case selection procedures and the ability to generalize results. In the second part of the course, studies containing practical examples of research designs about political extremism will be presented and critically analyzed. Some themes that will be addressed within the overall subject area include demand- and supply-side factors for radical party success in Western Europe, competition between radical and mainstream actors and the impact of radical parties on government policy. In a final step, we will commence our analysis of political texts (party manifestos, legislative motions and bills, for example), which represents the methodological focus of the course.

**Recommended Literature**

King, G., Keohane, R. O., & Verba, S. (1994). Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Lehrstuhl für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft der Universität Bamberg (2012): Hinweise zur Anfertigung wissenschaftlicher Hausarbeiten am Lehrstuhl für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft. Bamberg. [http://www.uni- bamberg.de/fileadmin/comparpol/Service/Saalfeld\_Hinweise\_Hausarbeiten\_20120301.pdf](http://www.uni-bamberg.de/fileadmin/comparpol/Service/Saalfeld_Hinweise_Hausarbeiten_20120301.pdf)

Pauwels, T. (2014). Populism in Western Europe. Comparing Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Milton Park. Routledge.