

Title of the course:	Socio-economic changes, the appeal of extreme right and different types of solidarity in Europe		
Course ID:	VE-NPT015		
Level of education:	Erasmus	Academic semester:	Spring
Professor's name:	Dr. Grajczjár István	Academic title:	Associate professor
Hours per semester:	Lecture 30	Credits:	4
Exam:	presentation and homework	Pre-requisite:	

The goal of seminar

In the last decades, socio-economic crises have severely affected citizens all over Europe, leading to high levels of insecurity and declining trust in public institutions. The populist radical-right successfully capitalizes on people's anxieties by blaming scapegoats for society's problems and offering simple political answers. As European and national elections in the last decade showed they are indeed becoming even more attractive to a significant part of the electorate. However, reactions to the consequences of the crisis and to experiences of deprivation do not necessarily lead to authoritarianism, nationalism and xenophobia. Many people voice democratic and universal-solidary protest against the worsening of living and working conditions and join progressive social movements, particularly in southern Europe.

By building on the findings of SIREN and SOCRIS projects, the seminar aims at investigating how the crisis has changed the link between socio-economic conditions and political orientations. The lecture will not only address 'authoritarian-exclusivist' reactions and the affinity to the populist radical right but will put more emphasis on 'democratic-solidarity' reactions and their foundations. In addition, at a conceptual and theoretical level the project will go beyond the contrast between 'authoritarian-exclusivist' and 'democratic-solidary' political orientations by conceptualizing this confrontation as a symbolic struggle over different forms of solidarity, i.e. 'open' and 'closed', inclusivist and exclusivist solidarity.

Topics of the seminar

1. Socio-economic changes: crises of welfare state, rising of inequality and insecurity.
2. Right wing extremism and right wing populism – demand side.
3. Rebirth of the far-right in Europe – supply side.
4. The link between socio-economic changes and the appeal of extreme right views, the most important socio-psychological theoretical background.
5. The comparison of results of SIREN and SOCRIS quantitative research results.
6. Different types of solidarity in times of crises.
7. Synthetizing different types of solidarity and right wing extremism.
8. Case study and presentation: Austria
9. Case study and presentation: Hungary
10. Case study and presentation: Germany
11. Case study and presentation: Spain
12. Case study and presentation. Turkey
13. Case study and presentation: Portugal
14. Case study and presentation: France
15. Summary and conclusions

Examination

Presentation and essay about an analysis of a chosen country (choosing a topic – radicalism or solidarity – working in student-groups)

Literature

István Grajczjár (eds. 2020): Impacts of perceptions of socio-economic changes on affinity towards right-wing extremism among employees in Austria and Hungary. MFU.

Grajczjár, I., Nagy, Z., & Örkény, A. (2021). Types of Solidarity in a Hybrid Regime: The Hungarian Case. Government and Opposition, 1-20.

Recommended literature

Grajczjár, I., Nagy, Z., & Örkény, A. (2019). Different types of solidarity in times of crises. Intersections, 5(1).
 Grajczjár, I., Zsófia, N. A. G. Y., Örkény, A., & HOFFMAN, J. (2018). Routes to right-wing extremism in times of crisis An Austrian-Hungarian comparison based on the SOCRIS survey. socio. hu, 95-117.