Doctoral Seminar
The Political Economy of European Integration:
The New Euro Regime
Dr. Fabio Bulfone and Prof. Martin Höpner
Thursdays, 9.30-11.00
Location: Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung, Paulstr. 3, Conference Room

Subject

This course will explore how the political-economic heterogeneity of the European Union shaped the euro, its crisis, and the emergence of the post-crisis euro regime. We will read and discuss current research literature. Core areas will be: The comparative political economy perspective; institutional and ideational crisis explanations; austerity and wage bargaining liberalization; the nature of the new euro regime; democracy and legitimacy; the Covid pandemic as a possible game changer. We will assume that all participants have some basic knowledge of the political system of the EU. Further special knowledge is not required for participation. Participants from different disciplines such as political science, sociology, and economics are welcome.

Language

Oral presentations and written materials are in English, but occasional use of German language is possible and recommended when it deserves clarity.

Note on Covid-19

We plan this course as a presence event. It will take place in the large conference room of the Max Planck Institute, in which, under conditions of Covid-19, up to 20 persons can meet. All participants are required to wear masks at the institute and to only take them off after being seated.

Suggested Preparatory Readings


Participation and Grading

Discussion of the readings will make up the core of the seminar sessions. To get credit, you are expected to:
1. Do all assigned mandatory readings.

2. Fill in a reading report (one page) for all sessions.

3. Act as rapporteur twice. We will discuss the details in the planning session.

**Reading Reports**

The readings can be downloaded here: [https://www.mpifg.de/people/mh/teach_de.asp](https://www.mpifg.de/people/mh/teach_de.asp).

For each session, please fill in the following standardized note sheet on the assigned mandatory reading and send it around the course participants not later than by Tuesday evening (the Tuesday before the respective session).

**Name of student:**

**Name of author of assigned reading:**

1. Write 5-8 sentences: What is the main finding of the author? (Note that it is not sufficient to reformulate the abstract. Abstracts are mostly on the research question and the methods, not on the findings.)

2. Write another 5-8 sentences: Please reflect on what you have learnt. Does the author provide general insights on the political economy of European (monetary) integration? To which controversy is the author speaking? Is there a practical relevance? Who precisely should be surprised by the author’s finding?

3. Which are the key concepts of the assigned reading? List around three and provide a brief definition of each.

4. List two or three aspects which you found to be particularly fascinating and which you would like to discuss in class.

**COURSE PLAN**

5 November 2020

**Introduction: Course Organization**

**Part I: Foundations**

12 November 2020

**The Heterogeneity of the EU and the Eurozone: Varieties of Capitalism**

Mandatory Reading:

Suggested Readings:


19 November 2020

**The Heterogeneity of the EU and the Eurozone: Growth Regimes**

**Mandatory Reading:**

**Suggested Readings:**


26 November 2020

**The Euro**

**Mandatory Reading:**

**Suggested Readings:**


**Part II: The Causes of the Euro Crisis**

3 December 2020

**An Institutional Explanation**

**Mandatory Readings:**

Suggested Readings:

10 December 2020
*No session today*

17 December 2020
**An Ideational Explanation**

Mandatory Readings:

Suggested Readings:

**Part III: Countermeasures – Towards a Better Equipped Eurozone?**

7 January 2021
*Does Austerity Work? Lessens from Eastern (and Southern) Europe*

Mandatory Reading:
Stefanie Walter, 2016: Crisis Politics in Europe: Why Austerity is Easier to Implement in Some Countries than in Others. In: *Comparative Political Studies* 49, 7, 841-873.

Suggested Readings:

14 January 2021

**Disempowering Trade Unions: An Endless Circle?**

*Today in Seminar Room 1!*

**Mandatory Readings:**


**Suggested Readings:**


21 January 2021

**Has the Euro Regime Become more Intergovernmental or more Supranational?**

**Mandatory Reading:**


**Suggested Readings:**


**Part IV: Legitimacy**

28 January 2021

**Does the Euro Regime Overstretch its Legitimacy?**
Mandatory Reading:

Suggested Readings:

4 February 2021
How the Euro Crisis Affects the Trust in Institutions

Mandatory Reading:

Suggested Readings:

11 February 2021
The Covid Crisis: A Game Changer?

Readings will be announced!