

## ECPR Summer School on Political Parties

“Theories, Methods and Practice Perspectives in Party Politics: Investigating Parties and Party Systems in young and established democracies”

September 22<sup>nd</sup> – September 26th 2025

<p><b>Host: University of Duisburg-Essen</b></p> <p><b>Venue:</b> NRW School of Governance Institute for Political Science Lotharstr. 53 47057 Duisburg</p> <p>Instagram: @nrw_school</p> <p>LinkedIn: NRW School of Governance</p>	<p><b>Local Organizers:</b></p> <p>Kristina Weissenbach (<a href="mailto:kristina.weissenbach@uni-due.de">kristina.weissenbach@uni-due.de</a>, coordinator) Lilian Fiala (<a href="mailto:lilian.fiala@uni-due.de">lilian.fiala@uni-due.de</a>, coordinator) Anna Augusto Ezequiel dos Santos (<a href="mailto:anna.dos-santos@uni-due.de">anna.dos-santos@uni-due.de</a>)</p> <p><b>Administrative Support:</b> Carmen Rösch (<a href="mailto:carmen.roesch@uni-due.de">carmen.roesch@uni-due.de</a>) Markus Hoffmann (<a href="mailto:markus.hoffmann@uni-due.de">markus.hoffmann@uni-due.de</a>)</p> <p><b>Communications &amp; Dissemination:</b> Philipp Richter (<a href="mailto:philipp.richter@uni-due.de">philipp.richter@uni-due.de</a>)</p>
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The Department of Social Sciences, the Institute of Political Science and the NRW School of Governance at the University of Duisburg-Essen are pleased to be hosting the ECPR Summer School on Theories, Methods and Practice Perspectives in Party Politics.

The Summer School provides young scholars working on various aspects of political parties with theoretical, analytical and practice knowledge with sessions delivered by some of the field's foremost experts as well as feedback on PhD projects, research projects or research papers. The program is a unique opportunity for participants to network with each other, more senior scholars and practitioners in the field of party politics. The invited speakers and the party researchers in the Department of Social Sciences cover different world regions. The summer school takes place over five days.

The program consists of a series of lectures as well as in-depth discussions of participants' research projects, a practitioners' roundtable as well as social activities. Since methods and data have become more diverse in the field of party politics, the program will include sessions on research design, methods, data collection, analysis, management and knowledge transfer in party politics research.

Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025

8:30– 09:30

(all times in CET time,  
UTC +2, daylight saving  
time)

building LS room 011

09:30 – 10:15

building LS room 105

**Registration & Welcome Breakfast**

*First get-together with Croissants & Coffee*

**Opening Session**

Welcome, Participants Self-Introduction & Introduction to the  
Summer School

*Kristina Weissenbach (University of Duisburg-Essen)*

10:15 – 12:15

**Lecture I: "Organization or Personalization? Politics is Still a Team Sport"**

*Richard Katz (Johns Hopkins University)*

Discussion & Readings

12:15 – 13:15

**Lunch**

13:15 – 14:00

**Party Leader Profiling: Analysing member's perception of a 'good' party leader personality**

*Marius Minas (University of Trier)*

Discussant: Richard Katz

14:00 – 14:45

**Grand and Multi-Party Oversized Coalitions in Consensus Democracies: Effects on Party Systems. A Comparative Analysis of Austria, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands (2000 - 2025)**

*Diana Ivanova (University of Sofia)*

Discussant: Richard Katz

14:45 – 15:15

**Coffee Break**

15:15 – 16:00

**The Winners Take It All, The Losers Stand Small: Brazilian Party Organizational Strength and Local Elections**

*Luís Gustavo Bruno Locatelli (Getulio Vargas Foundation)*

Discussant: Kristina Weissenbach

16:00 – 16:45

**Why Structure and Institutions are not Destiny: How Insurgent Successor Parties Strategically Build Democratic Legitimacy and Expertise Through Civil Society Tie**

*Wilin Buitrago Arias (University of Oxford)*

Discussant: Richard Katz

17:00

**Welcome and Reception**

Thomas Poguntke, Representative ECPR

Representative Department of Social Sciences / Institute for Political Science

Andreas Blätte & Kristina Weissenbach (NRW School of Governance)

09:00 – 12:00

**Workshop “Research Design & Methods: Data Collection – Analysis - Management in Party Politics Research”**

Simon Franzmann (University of Göttingen): *Working with Party Manifesto Data: Party Systems and Party Competition in Western Europe*

Andreas Blätte (University of Duisburg-Essen): *Text as Data in Party Research: How Parties debate Migration*

Kristina Weissenbach (University of Duisburg-Essen): *Working with Concepts & Focus Group Data: When do citizens trust political parties?*

12:00 – 13:00

**Lunch**

13:00 – 13:45

**Wars, Crises and Institutions: Untangling the Foreign Policy Ideology of the European Far-Right**

Alberto Miraglia (*Università di Bologna*)

Discussant: Simon Franzmann

13:45 – 14:30

**How framings of the issue of immigration by political parties vary based on social identities and regions of parliamentary members**

Meret Ugur (*Bilkent University*)

Discussant: Andreas Blätte

14:30 – 14:45

**Coffee Break**

14:45 – 15:30

**Voices against the populist far-right? Local political debate and the AfD in German district councils**

Paul Reimers (*Universität Speyer*)

Discussant: Simon Franzmann

15:30 – 16:15

**Party Competition in Domestic EU Politics: Comparative Insights from Three National Parliaments**

Elsa Karlsson Gustafsson (*Umeå Universitet*)

Discussant: Andreas Blätte

16:15– 19:15

**Social Activity: Landschaftspark Nord “Tour de Ruhr”**

Coordinator: Anna Augusto Ezequiel dos Santos (University of Duisburg-Essen)

**Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> 2025**

10:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Lecture II: “Parties and party systems at democratic backsliding moments”</b> Sebnem Yardimci-Geyikci (<i>University of Bonn</i>)</p> <p>Discussion &amp; Readings</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
13:00 – 13:45	<p><b>Strategic Illiberalism: Understanding the Radicalization of the Mainstream Right</b> Javed Ibad (<i>Babeş-Bolyai University</i>)</p> <p>Discussant: Sebnem Yardimci-Geyikci</p>
13:45 – 14:30	<p><b>Affective polarization and the erosion of representative trust: Under what political and institutional conditions do parties adopt negative, uncivil, or populist styles of campaigning?</b> Nicolás Molina-Arroyave (<i>National University of Colombia</i>)</p> <p>Discussant: Richard Katz</p>
14:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
15:00 – 15:45	<p><b>Under what conditions do institutional variables affect the recruitment processes of political elites?</b> Hugo Jofré (<i>University of Rostock</i>)</p> <p>Discussant: Lilian Fiala</p>
18:00 – 19:00	<p><b>Panel-Discussion: Undue Influence? Corruption in Party Financing and Its Impact on Democratic Trust“</b></p> <p>Host: Lilian Fiala (<i>University of Duisburg-Essen</i>)</p>
19:00 – 20:00	<p><b>Light Dinner &amp; Get-together (NRW School of Governance)</b></p> <p>Coordinator: Anna Augusto Ezequiel dos Santos (<i>NRW School of Governance</i>)</p>

Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> 2025

10:00 – 12:00

**Lecture III: “Political Parties, intra-party Democracy and Democracy”**

Thomas Poguntke (*Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf*)

Discussion & Readings

12:00 – 13:00

**Lunch**

13:00 – 13:45

**How do challenger parties strategically use connections to civil society to improve their electoral prospects?**

Annina Hermes (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)

Discussant: Thomas Poguntke

13:45 – 14:30

**Not a matter of trust and discontent, but a reflection of the cosmopolitanism-communitarism cleavage: Explaining electoral support for far-right populist parties along the urban-rural line**

Lars Rumpf (*Universität Speyer*)

Discussant: Thomas Poguntke

14:30 – 15:00

**Coffee Break**

15:00 – 15:45

**What influence do the voters' evaluations of the leading candidates have on the election outcome?**

Jandrik Meichsner (*University of Kiel*)

Discussant: Thomas Poguntke

15: 45 – 16:30

**Contesting Neoliberalism from the Left: How Party Characteristics and Context Shape Electoral Success**

Raphaël Létourneau (*Freie Universität Berlin*)

Discussant: Kristina Weißenbach

10:00 – 12:00

**Lecture IV: “Party Organisation in the Context of Party Digitalisation”**

Patricia Correa Vila (*Aston University*)

Discussion & Readings

12:00 – 13:00

**Lunch**

13:00 – 13:45

**Performing the Party in India: Constitution, Legislation, and Representation**

Mouli Banerjee (*University of Warwick*)

Discussant: Patricia Correa Vila

13:45 – 14:30

**To what extent is party competition programmatic in hybrid regimes and how do programmatic and clientelistic forms of party competition co-exist with each other?**

Levan Kakhishvili (*University of Zurich*)

Discussant: Patricia Correa Vila

14:30 – 15:00

**Coffee Break**

15:00 – 15:45

**What shapes political parties’ issue emphasis?**

Robert Stelzle (*Aarhus Universitet*)

Discussant: Patricia Correa Vila

17:30

**Peter Mair-Award for Best Paper & Joint Summer School Lunch**

Coordinator: Anna Augusto Ezequiel dos Santos (*University of Duisburg-Essen*)

Venue: König-Pilsener Wirtshaus  
Am Innenhafen 8-10, 47059 Duisburg