

Organiser and chair:

Claudia Wiesner, Acting Professor for Comparative Politics, Hamburg University

Workshop at the

Centre for Globalisation and Governance

Date: February 8-9, 2018

Call for Papers: Rethinking the Concept of Politicisation

Politicisation currently is a topic and a concept that is quite much discussed, particularly when the “politicization of European Integration is discussed”. But “politicization” is also a concept that is contested in its definitions and understandings. The workshop hence aims at discussing “politicisation” as a newly emerging concept and research field in the Political and Social Sciences.

The state of the art of the debate on “politicization” first shows a separation into different subfields. Politicisation of the EU and in International Relations are discussed on the one hand, but politicization and depoliticisation are also thematised in Political Theory and Comparative Politics. The goal of the workshop therefore is to bring together these different strands, as well as more theoretical and more empirical approaches, and to make them mutually fruitful.

A crucial aim in this context is to discuss how the concept of politicisation can be understood and operationalised more broadly than what is state of the art so far. When working with the concept of politicisation, it soon turns out that its understanding relates to a specific understanding of “the political”, and that several of the current accounts are marked by an understanding of politicization that relies on an ontological position that regards “politics” as a sphere or field that is separate from the rest of society. Politicisation is, then, often regarded in a top-down logic or in dichotomies that ask for agents and their audience. Recent studies on EU politicisation, for instance, argue that the post-Maastricht era led to the politicisation of EU integration via an increasing citizens’ dissatisfaction. Newer accounts, however, argue that European integration has been from the beginning linked to politicisation.

Understanding and working with the concept of politicisation therefore requires taking a closer look at its relationship to ‘politics’ or ‘political’, as the interpretation of what is considered as politicisation depends on the interpretation of what is politics/political. Different traditions and perspectives inspired from political theory can bring a fruitful contribution on the concepts and understandings of politics, the political and depoliticisation

The goal of the workshop therefore is to bring the different strands and subdisciplines in the debate together in order to

- discuss the ontological bases, the conceptualisation, and the analytical value of different approaches to politicisation.
- Discuss different concepts of politicization, including interpretations that also aim at actors and bottom-up, cross-cutting and sideways perspectives

- Discuss and line out how the concept of politicization can be applied to different empirical examples and cases in a comparative perspective

I welcome paper proposals that treat one or several of these questions.

Please send your abstract **until dec. 1st** to

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Confirmed Speakers

- Claudia Wiesner, University of Hamburg
- Philip Liste, Hamburg University
- Kari Palonen, University of Jyväskylä
- Niilo Kauppi, University of Jyväskylä
- Virginie van Ingelgom Université Catholique de Louvain and Claire Dupuy, Sciences Po Grenoble
- Dirk Jörke, Darmstadt University
- Veith Selk, Darmstadt University
- Swen Hutter, European University Institute
- Christian Rauh, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung
- Hansjörg Trenz, University of Copenhagen
- Peter de Wilde, Trondheim University
- Michael Zürn, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung