

Bachelor seminar

## The Economics of Populism and Radicalism

Summer term 2023

### Seminar focus

Populism and radicalism have been on the rise in the 21st century. This seminar discusses the causes and consequences of this rise. The topics selected cover many dimensions, from economic crises and globalization, to the role of media and social norms. As a complement, a short historical perspective is included as well. Through this seminar, participants will engage with state-of-the-art empirical research in political economy.

The course language is English.

### Prerequisites

The course is open to advanced students in the Management & Economics Bachelor program. Prior knowledge in basic econometrics is required. We assume that participants are familiar with the contents of Statistics I and II, at least. Additional knowledge in econometrics is highly welcome. If you have not yet taken any statistics or econometrics classes, please be prepared to acquire the respective knowledge yourself. Prior knowledge in Applied Microeconomics, Political Economy, and/or Public Choice is useful.

### Assignments

Credit points are granted for **preparing a term paper (30,000 characters), presenting the results in front of the class as well as for actively participating during the seminar**. Each student is assigned one baseline paper (see below). Students are expected to critically present and analyze the central aspects and methods of their baseline paper and discuss its relevance in the context of a somewhat broader academic literature.

Moreover, all participants are expected to read two introductory articles: Mudde (2004) and Rodrik (2018).

All term papers will be supervised by one of the course instructors. Students should arrange at least one meeting to discuss the structure of their seminar paper. The preliminary outline should be submitted via e-mail prior to the meeting. The seminar paper can be written in Word or LaTeX. For style requirements, such as margins, font size, spacing etc., participants are required to follow the chair's guidelines for theses and seminar papers.

## Application and enrollment

Please apply for this class by sending an e-mail to Dr. Kim Leonie Kellermann, which contains your full name, study program, semester count and your top 3 preferences regarding a baseline paper. **The deadline for application is April 3, 2023.** Enrollment is limited to 20 participants and spots will be granted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please note that we cannot process incomplete applications, which lack the above-mentioned data, or applications submitted after the deadline.

Accepted applicants will receive an invitation to the introductory meeting on April 11, 2023 and should also register for the Moodle course. The assignment of participating students to topics and baseline papers will be communicated in the introductory meeting. We expect all students to participate in the introductory meeting. In order to receive credit points, please do not forget to also register in FlexNow in time.

## Important dates

*Dates might be subject to change.*

Introductory meeting:	<b>April 11, 2023, 10-11a.m.</b> (venue: tba)
Submission deadline for seminar papers:	<b>June 25, 2023 (Sunday, 11:59p.m.)</b>
Block seminar:	<b>July 6, 2023, all day</b> (venue: tba) <b>July 7, 2023, half day</b> (venue: tba)

## Introductory readings

Readings marked with (\*) are mandatory for all participants.

- (\*) Mudde, C. (2004). The Populist Zeitgeist. *Government and Opposition*, 39, 541–563.
- (\*) Rodrik, D. (2018). Populism and the Economics of Globalization. *Journal of International Business Policy*, 1, 12–33.
- Guriev, S. & Papaioannou, E. (2020), The Political Economy of Populism. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 60 (3), 753-832.
- Mudde, C. & Rovira Kaltwasser, C. (2017). Populism. A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press.
- Norris, P. & Inglehart, R. (2019). Cultural Backlash. Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism. Cambridge University Press.

## Topics & baseline articles

### I. Economic insecurity: Globalization and trade

- Autor, D., Dorn, D., Hanson, G. & Majlesi, K. (2020). Importing Political Polarization? The Electoral Consequences of Rising Trade Exposure. *American Economic Review*, 110 (10), 3139-3183

- Colantone, I., & Stanig, P. (2018). The Trade Origins of Economic Nationalism: Import Competition and Voting Behavior in Western Europe. *American Journal of Political Science*, 62 (4), 936–953.

## II. Economic insecurity: Economic crises

- Fetzer, T. (2019). Did Austerity Cause Brexit? *American Economic Review*, 109 (11), 3849-3886.
- Funke, M., Schularick, M., & Trebesch, C. (2016). Going to extremes: Politics after financial crises, 1870-2014. *European Economic Review*, 88, 227–260.

## III. Information and communication: Mass media

- DellaVigna, S., & Kaplan, E. (2007). The Fox News Effect: Media Bias and Voting. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122 (3), 1187–1234.
- Durante, R., Pinotti, P., & Tesei, A. (2019). The Political Legacy of Entertainment TV. *American Economic Review*, 109 (7), 2497–2530.
- Adena, M., Enikolopov, R., Petrova, M., Santarosa, V., & Zhuravskaya, E. (2015). Radio and the Rise of The Nazis in Prewar Germany. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130 (4), 1885-1939.

## IV. Information and communication: Mis-information and social media

- Müller, K. & Schwarz, C. (2021). Fanning the Flames of Hate. Social Media and Hate Crime. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 19 (4), 2131–2167.
- Allcott, H., & Gentzkow, M. (2017). Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31 (2), 211–236.
- Barrera, O., Guriev, S., Henry, E., & Zhuravskaya, E. (2020). Facts, Alternative Facts, and Fact Checking in Times of Post-truth Politics. *Journal of Public Economics*, 182, 104-123.

## V. Immigration and exposure to foreigners

- Steinmayr, A. (2021). Contact versus Exposure: Refugee Presence and Voting for the Far-Right. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 103 (2), 310–327.
- Schindler, D., & Westcott, M. (2021). Shocking Racial Attitudes: Black G.I.s in Europe. *Review of Economic Studies*, 88 (1), 489-520.
- Dustmann, C., Vasiljeva, K., & Damm, A. (2019). Refugee Migration and Electoral Outcomes. *Review of Economic Studies*, 86 (5), 2035-2091.

## VI. Social norms and attitudes

- Giani, M., & Méon, P.-G. (2021). Global Racist Contagion Following Donald Trump’s Election. *British Journal of Political Science*, 51, 1332-1339.
- Bursztyn, L., Egorov, G., & Fiorin, S. (2020). From Extreme to Mainstream: The Erosion of Social Norms. *American Economic Review*, 110 (11), 3522–3548.

- Gerling, L. & Kellermann, K. L. (2022). Contagious populists: The impact of election information shocks on populist party preferences in Germany. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 72, 102098.

## VII. Radicalism in historical perspective

- Voigtländer, N., & Voth, H.-J. (2012). Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 127 (3), 1339–1392.
- Voigtländer, N., & Voth, H.-J. (2021). Highway to Hitler. *NBER Working Papers*, 20150.
- Cantoni, D., Hagemester, F., & Westcott, M. (2019). Persistence and Activation of Right-Wing Political Ideology. *Rationality & Competition Discussion Papers*, 143.

## Course instructors

Dr. Kim Leonie Kellermann  
 Room GD03/349  
 kim.kellermann@rub.de

Patrick Hufschmidt  
 Room GD03/353  
 patrick.hufschmidt@rub.de