

Fachbereich 9 - Medienstudiengänge

Department 9 - Media Courses

Kommentar zur Lehrveranstaltung im WiSe 2019/20

Description of seminars

Veranstalter*in: Yannis Theocharis

Lecturer:

Titel (dt.):

Titel (engl.): Research Seminar on Populism in the Age of Social Media

Beschreibung:

Description:

This research- and theory-oriented seminar revolves around the phenomenon of populism. Populism ranks among the most popular and, at the same time, most contested concepts in the social sciences, with numerous contributions about its nature and function within contemporary societies. Simply put, there is little agreement as to what exactly populism is, what the definitive features of populist politicians are, whether populism is a democratic side-effect and indication of democratic decline or, to some extent, a necessary ingredient of democracy. Recent advances in information and communication technologies have also raised the question of how especially social technologies like social media assist populist politicians achieve a widespread audience and potentially even electoral success. In this course we will take a research-oriented approach with the goal of answering these questions. The course will consist of a combination of (a) group-based work on identifying, conceptualizing and measuring instances of populism, and (b) a theoretical investigation of the origins and elements of populism through the work of various scholars who have attempted to define it and measure it. After arriving at a working definition of populism, we will focus on the phenomenon as a political communication strategy as well as a rhetoric deployed by the mass media and explore diverse examples through hands-on analysis of media articles. Special focus will be placed on how social media become vehicles for populist communication, and an assessment of their impact on democracy will be provided. The course aims to provide a well-rounded understanding of populism not merely through existing theoretical accounts but also through a hands-on investigation of how populism is defined and elaborated upon in the mass media. At the end of this course students will have a strong foundation suitable for the further empirical study of populism.

Literatur:

Literature:

- Müller, J-W. (2017). *What is Populism?* London: Penguin.
- Mudde, C. & Kaltwasser, C.R. (2017). *Populism: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Aalberg, T., Esser, F., Reinemann, C., Stromback, J. & de Vreese, C. (2018). *Populist Political Communication in Europe*. London: Routledge.
- Kaltwasser, C.R., Taggart, P.A., Espejo, P.O, Ostiguy, P. (2017). *The Oxford Handbook of Populism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Tucker, J., Theocharis, Y., Roberts, M.E. & Barberá, P. (2017). From Liberation to Turmoil? Social Media and Democracy. *Journal of Democracy*, 28(4): 46-59.