



Universität Stuttgart

Institut für Sozialwissenschaften

Abteilung SOWI | Prof. Dr. Patrick Bernhagen

Right-wing populism in Europe: Extreme, mainstream or in-between?

The rapid growth of Populist Radical Right (PRR) parties affects as good as every country in Europe. The United Kingdom, however, is a somewhat deviant case in the sense that no PRR party has established itself in the national parliament. Until quite recently the UK Independence Party (UKIP) has received remarkably little academic attention, despite having been firmly established in the EU parliament since 1999, getting the highest number of votes of all UK parties in the 2014 EU election. It is notable how much more research has been devoted to the smaller and more extreme British National Party (BNP). One reason for dismissing UKIP has been that it has been regarded as a single-issue anti-EU party, but it has presented comprehensive manifestos and its rhetoric and programme resembles PRR parties from continental Europe.

In his guest lecture, Anders Widfeldt compares the support bases of UKIP and BNP with the mainstream British parties. In addition, the two British PRR parties are compared with a European "extreme right template", a summary of key characteristics of PRR voters. Although BNP is more extreme than UKIP, the latter party has become a viable option for many voters with extreme right views. The UKIP support base also shows important similarities with PRR parties in continental Europe. While currently in crisis, UKIP could potentially regain a bridging position between the conservative mainstream and the more extreme right wing in British politics, especially as the British exit from the EU could well take forms which will not please former and remaining UKIP voters.

Dr. Anders Widfeldt

University of Aberdeen

Donnerstag, 31. Januar 2019, 14:00 Uhr
Breitscheidstraße 2, Raum M 2.31

Alle sind herzlich eingeladen!

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