

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

POPULISM IN EUROPE

03.09.2018-08.09.2018

Berlin, Germany

Jointly conducted by
University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute
University of Tartu, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies
Freie Universität Berlin, Institute for East European Studies

Topic

It seems difficult to discuss current developments and events in European countries without using the word “populism”. And there are many instances one could refer to, to show that populists are able to gain a considerable number of supporters, especially in the last decade. But when asking how to understand and conceptualize the term, views are diverging and it seems that there is no common understanding in academia, the media or the public discourse. This year’s international Autumn School, jointly organized by the University of Tartu, the University of Helsinki and Freie Universität Berlin, will take a deeper look at this fluid and fuzzy political phenomenon.

Students will get an overview of how different researchers have (empirically) worked with the term and discuss various concepts and their relation towards (and difference from) populism. The theoretically discussed concept(s) will be used to analyze various exemplary cases, e.g. in Eastern Europe. Emphasis will be on those ones where populist parties and actors have gained influence, not only in the last years. The guiding questions for the sessions, among others, are therefore: What is it that makes populists attractive for voters? What are the topics they are frequently talking about in the different cases? What is their recipe for success? How is the media landscape influencing populism? To add to this, it is also envisaged to take a global perspective on populism, asking e.g. how the populist uprisings are challenging and changing the global political order and its overall landscape.

Structure

The program of the Autumn School will comprise approx. 30 academic hours of study, combining different study formats (e.g. group work, workshops, lectures, panel discussions). The program awards **5 ECTS**. Upon successful completion of the Autumn School, participants will receive a **joint certificate** from three renowned universities (FUB, UH, UT). Students are required to:

- attend the entire program of the Autumn School
- prepare and present a group work project together with other participants
- submit a paper on a self-chosen topic (2 000 words), related to the Autumn Schools overall framework, one week (August 27, 2018) prior to the Autumn School
- present the paper to fellow students

Expenditures

There are no tuition fees. Accommodation will be booked and covered by Freie Universität Berlin. Participants are expected to take care of their travel arrangements and further costs themselves.

Application

The Autumn School is open to MA students and advanced undergraduate students of the three Universities mentioned above. Deadline for applications is **May 31, 2018**.

A **letter of motivation** together with your **CV** and an **academic transcript** needs to be submitted in order to apply. Please send your application documents via email – attached as PDFs – to your respective program coordinator.

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