Ph.D. Course at the Social Science Faculty, fall 2018

Political Psychology

Hanna Bäck and Magnus Lindén

Course description

This Ph.D.-course deals with theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of Political Psychology. Political psychology focuses on applying what is known about human psychology to the study of politics. This course starts out with an overview of various theoretical approaches that have provided the basis for the field, for example, rational choice theory, theories focusing on the role of emotion, on social identity, on personality features and cognition. It also gives a brief overview of some of the methodological approaches that are used in the field. The course then presents several applied topics, focusing on the decisions and behavior of individuals at the mass level, and at the elite level. The course will deal with questions such as, ‘Why do individuals take part in collective action?’ ‘Why do people vote for specific candidates?’ ‘Why do some individuals become radicalized?’ ‘How do destructive leaders interact with their followers?’ and ‘What leadership traits determine foreign policy outcomes?’

- **Language**: The course is held entirely in English.
- **Directors**: Hanna Bäck (Hanna.Back@svet.lu.se), Magnus Lindén (Magnus.Linden@psy.lu.se).

Course goals

The goal of the course is that the participants, after course completion, will be able to:

(1) Understand psychological theories about political actors and their behavior;
(2) Explain political behavior resulting from decision-making and human psychology;
(3) Reflect over methodological approaches and problems within the field of political psychology.

Course format and examination

The main part of the teaching consists of two-hour seminars which include two parts: (1) a lecture by the lecturer for about 45 minutes, and (2) a more independent part for about 45 minutes, which includes group discussions. For the later part, each participant should come up with two questions to discuss.

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail. To be awarded a passing grade the Ph.D. student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified. The participants are expected to:

- Write a course paper (ca 5 000 words) on a self-selected topic dealing with political psychology;
- Present the course paper and act as discussant on another participant’s paper;
- Actively participate in the seminars.
Course literature

Books


Articles and book chapters


Galinsky, Adam D., Rucker, Derek, D. & Magee, Joe C. 2015. “Power: Past findings, present considerations, and future directions”. In *APA Handbook of Personality and Social Psychology: Vol. 3. Interpersonal Relations*. Mikulincer Mario (Ed) and Shaver, Philip R (Ed); Publisher: American Psychological Association; pp. 421-460.


Paunonen, Sampo V. & Hong, Ryan Y. 2015. "On the properties of personality traits". In: APA handbook of personality and social psychology, Volume 4: Personality processes and individual differences. Mikulincer, Mario (Ed); Shaver, Phillip R. (Ed); Cooper, M. Lynne (Ed); Larsen, Randy J. (Ed); Publisher: American Psychological Association; pp. 233-259.


Schneider, Monica C., and Angela L. Bos. 2014. “Measuring stereotypes of female politicians.” Political Psychology 35: 245-266.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Question/info</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Room</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Course info, theoretical &amp; methodological approaches</td>
<td>Hanna Bäck &amp; Magnus Lindén</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>Eden 367</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Personality and political behavior</td>
<td>Which personality features matter for political behavior?</td>
<td>Magnus Lindén</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>8/11</td>
<td>Eden 367</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Collective action and political activity</td>
<td>Why do people take part in collective action? Why do they become active?</td>
<td>Hanna Bäck</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>Eden 367</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ideology and voting behavior</td>
<td>Why do people have specific attitudes/ideologies, and vote for some candidates/parties?</td>
<td>Hanna Bäck</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>15/11</td>
<td>Eden 367</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Gender stereotypes and political leadership</td>
<td>What is the role of gender stereotypes in who becomes a political leader and how they behave?</td>
<td>Hanna Bäck</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>19/11</td>
<td>Eden 367</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Destructive leadership in a political context</td>
<td>How do destructive political leaders interact with the environment and their followers?</td>
<td>Magnus Lindén</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>26/11</td>
<td>Eden 367</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Political leadership and foreign policy</td>
<td>Which leadership traits and belief systems are important for understanding foreign policy?</td>
<td>Roxanna Sjöstedt</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>29/11</td>
<td>Eden 367</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Final seminar</td>
<td>Presentation of research papers</td>
<td>Hanna Bäck &amp; Magnus Lindén</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Eden 367</td>
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Detailed course outline (literature)

Lecture 1 (Hanna and Magnus): Introduction to Political Psychology


Lecture 2 (Magnus): Personality and political behavior


Paunonen, Sampo V. & Hong, Ryan Y. 2015. "On the properties of personality traits”. In: APA handbook of personality and social psychology, Volume 4: Personality processes and individual differences. Mikulincer, Mario (Ed); Shaver, Phillip R. (Ed); Cooper, M. Lynne (Ed); Larsen, Randy J. (Ed); Publisher: American Psychological Association; pp. 233-259.
Lecture 3 (Hanna): Collective action and political activity


Lecture 4 (Hanna): Ideology and voting behavior


Lecture 5 (Hanna): Gender stereotypes and political leadership


Schneider, Monica C., and Angela L. Bos. 2014. “Measuring stereotypes of female politicians.” Political Psychology 35: 245-266.

Lecture 6 (Magnus): Radicalization and terrorism


Lecture 7 (Magnus): Destructive leadership in a political context


Lecture 8 (Roxanna): Political leadership and foreign policy


Lecture 9 (Hanna and Magnus): Final seminar

Preparations

- Prepare a 10-minute presentation of your course paper, using some presentation tool (e.g. ppt).
- Prepare a 10-minute discussion of one of the other participant’s paper.
- Read all the papers of the participants in the group.