Course Description

One of the questions we pose in this course is whether the conceptual axiom that took root in the last twenty years, i.e. the end of ideologies and the triumph of liberal democracy is really true. Although the number of democracies had increased considerably in the last decades, still, we witness the beginning of a setback not only in the non-western world, but also in Europe. The increasing number of Radical Right-Wing movements in Europe and their growing influence in the respective countries has led several scholars to rethink and wonder on whether some of the political phenomena of the last 20 century is not back. With the financial crisis in the European Union we are beginning to witness the return of nationalism, of populism and some would even say of Neo-Fascism.
This course strives to put some order in that conceptualization, while tracing the origins of nationalism, fascism and populism. We will deal with historical phenomena, ideological roots and political practice, and will try to analyze whether we are heading towards a more liberal world or back to the dark times of the 20th century. We will further discuss whether the very idea of liberal democracy is viable or is it in a steady process of decline.

Course Goals

A thorough theoretical understanding and practical implementation of the three concepts; Fascism, Populism ans Nationalism.

Grading

1) Active participation

2) Final exam: 100% of the final grade (includes both reading list and lectures content)

Lecturer Office Hours

Wed 14:15-15:15

Please schedule ahead via e-mail.

Reading List

Weeks 1-2

*The conceptualization challenge: What do we mean by fascism? What is the difference with nationalism and populism?*


Smith, Anthony D. *Nationalism in the twentieth century*. Canberra: Australian National University Press, 1979. Ch.1
Internet

http://www.anesi.com/Fascism-TheUltimateDefinition.htm#5._The_Ultimate_Definition

Weeks 3-4-5-6  Nationalism and Modernity


Connor, Walker. "A nation is a nation, is a state, is an ethnic group is a…." Ethnic and racial studies 1, no. 4 (1978): 377-400.


Weeks 7-8 Nationalism, the rebellion against Enlightenment and the early origins of fascism


Week 9 – Fascism and Power, Reactionary, Racist…. Progressive?


Weeks 10-11-12 The post liberal populist turn. Radical Right Wing Populism in Europe


Week 13

Debate: Is Populism good for democracy?