



Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

Faculty
of business, Economics
and Social Sciences



HAMBURG POLITICAL SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES – HPS³

INVITATION

Please be invited to the Hamburg Political Science Seminar Series - HPS³ in Summer Semester 2026.

The HPS Seminar Series features international speakers presenting cutting-edge research in all subfields of political science and political economy. It takes place on Wednesdays. For further information about dates and speakers in SuSe 26 please refer to the [HPS³ Website](#).

We welcome on

May 20, 2026 17:15-18:45 CET in VMP9 A 411

[Lukas Haffert](#) (Universität Bremen)

Title: "Abstiegsangst: Leveraging the relegation of football teams to study the political effects of regional status loss"

Abstract:

Political discontent and anti-establishment voting are regionally concentrated, yet the non-material sources of this geographic pattern are not well understood. Focusing on the role of regional identities, we argue that shocks to regional identity markers can generate geographically concentrated perceptions of social status loss. Because local football clubs are an important source of regional identity for many voters, we leverage their decline as collective, non-material threat to regional status. We combine evidence from a two-wave panel survey, focus groups, and local election results in Germany to study how football teams are connected to local identities and how identity shocks in turn can trigger status loss and political discontent.

We invite everyone interested to attend!