Universität Hamburg
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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 Winter Semester 2026/27. The HPS³ Seminar Series features international speakers presenting cutting-edge research in all subfields of political science. The seminars usually take place on Wednesdays 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. on campus: Allende-Platz 1 - AP1 Room 110. They can be attended by UHH researchers, guests and students. No prior registration is needed. For further information about dates and speakers in WiSe 26/27 please refer to the HPS³ Website.

We welcome on

January 13, 2027 4:30-6:00 p.m. CET in AP1 110

Despina Alexiadou (University of Strathclyde Glasgow)

Title: Masculinized inclusion: Gender and Class in Democratic Parliaments

Abstract:

Politicians' social class has recently become a central focus on those studying political elites. Yet, there is still limited empirical work on the intersection of class and gender and its potential effects on representation. This is puzzling as over the last thirty years we observe two parallel and yet, mostly not jointly researched, processes across the legislatures of advanced democracies. On the one hand, legislatures are becoming more gender equal. Women account for about thirty percent of legislators, up from eleven percent in the nineties. Higher gender parity in legislatures is associated with more legislation that protects the rights of women and children and higher congruence between legislatures and voters on cultural issues. On the other hand, legislatures are also becoming more class unequal. Overtime, the number of legislators who come from the working and middle classes declines while the number of legislators who come from the liberal professional classes, such as lawyers and executives, is increasing. This change might be one of the reasons that legislatures, across Europe and the Americas, are found to be more congruent with affluent voters over economic issues. In this project we ask whether the two processes- the entry of women into politics and the parallel entry of a higher number of liberal professional in parliament- go hand in hand with significant implications, not only for descriptive but also for substantive representation. We address these questions by analysing candidate and MP level data in the UK and Germany since the early eighties. Our study provides novel insights on how class and gender impact on MPs' election to parliament, their tenure in parliament and progression to legislative and executive roles and ultimately their impact on policy.

Keywords: class, gender, representation, UK, Germany, entry to politics, political careers

Organizers:
Universität Hamburg
Political Science

WE INVITE EVERYONE INTERESTED TO ATTEND