

Fascisms. European history, current challenges

Instructor: Dr Wiebke Keim
Module entirely taught in English

Course Description

The course introduces key literature in the field of fascism theories. We will first deal with analyses of historical fascisms in Europe. Students then have the task to reflect upon current developments within and outside of Europe referring to the theoretical and conceptual tools they have acquired.

Participants will critically discuss what common aspects and what differences there are between the historical fascisms and chosen current examples.

Course Objectives

Students acquire conceptual and theoretical tools regarding analyses of historical fascisms. They then critically discuss in how far one can apply those tools to the current period and to cases outside of the historical and geographical realm of fascism.

Reading Materials

Kallis, Aristotle A. (ed.) (2003), *The Fascism Reader*, Routledge: London and New York

Mudde C (2007), *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe*. Cambridge University Press (marketing excerpt available online: <http://www.cambridge.org/et/academic/subjects/politics-internationalrelations/european-government-politics-and-policy/populist-radical-right-parties-europe>)

N. Langenberger & B. Schellenberg (eds.) (2011), *Is Europe on the 'right' path? Right-wing extremism and right-wing populism in Europe*. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung: Berlin
(available online: <http://library.fes.de/pdffiles/do/08338.pdf>, 1.8.2016)

Blamires, Cyprian P./Jackson, Paul (eds.) (2006), *World Fascism. A Historical Encyclopaedia*. ABC Clío: Santa Barbara, Denver, Oxford

Assessment

Students choose an empirical example of post-1945 fascisms. Examples of topics could be a singular group or party, a specific country-case, a given time period, a political or scholarly controversy around usage of the term "fascism" in the post-1945 period,... Students are required to relate their chosen case to the theoretical approaches we dealt with in class, and to critically assess the question whether in the chosen case, one can meaningfully speak of fascism or not, and why. Students are encouraged to get into touch with me to discuss their research ideas in the course of the semester.

The format of the assessment is a research paper. This means: that the students do research on their own on the chosen topic; that they construct a corpus of literature, which includes scholarly publications, but can also cover newspaper articles, films, political statements, juridical texts etc.; that they develop an argument in which they link the empirical material to the theoretical approaches we discussed in class; that the paper is written according to scientific standards.