

Fakultät für Sozialwissenschaften
Lehrstuhl für Politische Wissenschaft III, Vergleichende Regierungslehre
Prof. Dr. Marc Debus

Methods of Comparative Government: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Government Formation in Multi-Level Settings

Type of event: Exercise (Advanced Level)
Time and place: Monday, 13:45 – 15:15 (weekly) in A 5, 6 Bauteil C - C 108
Lecturer: Martin Gross, MA
E-Mail: martin.gross@uni-mannheim.de

Description:

The formation of government coalitions is one of the key decisions political actors will have to face. Almost every West and East European country has experienced government coalitions. The understanding of the formation of government coalitions, thus, is crucial for the understanding of today's politics. The present course introduces research designs and methods to study the formation of government coalitions and aims at enabling the participants to conduct empirical analyses in a quantitative manner with STATA. The course is not only focusing on the actual formation of government coalitions, but also giving an overview on both the factors determining the duration of coalition negotiations and the factors influencing the length of coalition agreements. Therefore, participants will deal with OLS regressions, conditional logit models, mixed logit models, and (presented as an overview) Cox proportional hazards models as well as Heckman selection models. Furthermore, the course aims at enabling the participants to estimate the policy positions of political actors (since they are one of the key factors determining the actions of political actors). Hence, the course will deal with expert surveys as well as human coded and automatic (computer based) methods of content analysis (CMP data; Wordscores). The various approaches will be compared and discussed with regard to their possible applications. Throughout the course, we will work with replication material of various empirical studies analysing government formation procedures. Therefore, students should either possess a good knowledge of STATA or be willing to invest effort in building this skill.

Literature:

- Budge, Ian/Keman, Hans (1990): *Parties and Democracy. Coalition Formation and Government Functioning in Twenty States*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Caramani, Daniele (2011): *Comparative Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2nd edition).
- Gallagher, Michael/Laver, Michael/Mair, Peter (2011): *Representative Government in Modern Europe*. New York u.a.: McGraw-Hill (5th edition).
- Laver, Michael/Schofield, Norman (1990): *Multiparty Government. The Politics of Coalition in Europe*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Laver, Michael/Shepsle, Kenneth A. (1996): *Making and Breaking Governments*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Müller, Wolfgang C./Narud, Hanne Marthe (Hrsg.) (2013): *Party Governance and Party Democracy: Festschrift to Kaare Strøm*. New York/Heidelberg: Springer.
- Müller, Wolfgang C./Strøm, Kaare (Hrsg.) (2000): *Coalition Governments in Western Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Newton, Kenneth/van Deth, Jan W. (2010): *Foundations of comparative politics. Democracies of the modern world*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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Strøm, Kaare/Müller, Wolfgang/Bergman, Torbjörn (Hrsg.) (2010): *Cabinets and Coalition Bargaining: The Democratic Life Cycle in Western Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Literature for statistical analyses:

- Kohler, Ulrich/Kreuter, Frauke (2012): *Data Analysis Using Stata*. College Station, Texas: Stata Press (3rd edition).
- Long, J. Scott/Freese, Jeremy (2014): *Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables Using Stata*. College Station, Texas: Stata Press (3rd edition).
- Mitchell, Michael N. (2012): *A Visual Guide to Stata Graphics*. College Station, Texas: Stata Press (3rd edition).

Recommended for:

Students in the fifth semester.

Basic information:

- 2 hours per week.
- 5 ECTS credits.
- Teaching language is English.

Office hours:

Monday, 15:30 – 16:30 in A5, Bauteil A, room A 340 and by appointment

Telephone: 0621-181 2052

E-Mail: martin.gross@uni-mannheim.de

Online access to course material:

<https://portal2.uni-mannheim.de>

Goals to achieve:

- Gaining insight in theoretical and empirical analyses of comparative government research in multi-level settings.
- Dealing with replication materials and conducting own empirical analyses of coalition formation processes.
- Explaining differences in coalition bargaining outcomes.
- Preparation of bachelor thesis by gaining skills on how to work with Stata regarding coalition formation processes.

How to succeed:

1. Regular attendance and active participation.
2. Delivery of a number of take home exercises.

Readings:

For each week there are required readings. The required readings are either recent classics which are commonly taken as reference point for starting off new research in the field, or examples of innovative studies in a subfield. Please note: it is essential that you read these

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pieces of literature prior to the sessions in order to participate in the class discussions and to understand methodologically what we are going to do in Stata. Your input in discussions is needed to make our weekly meetings productive and beneficial to everyone. All readings and replication materials are available electronically via Ilias.

Take home exercises:

All students are expected to deliver a number of take home exercises. The take home exercises have to be handed in by **Thursday prior to the next session, 12 pm**, at the latest via e-mail to martin.gross@uni-mannheim.de. The exercises are going to be discussed at the beginning of the next session.

Syllabus

- (1) **01.09. Introduction and organisation of the seminar**
- (2) **08.09. Modelling party competition**
 - Hinich, Melvin J./Munger, Michael C. (1997): *Analytical Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 21-72.
- (3) **15.09. Theories of coalition formation**
 - Nyblade, Benjamin (2013): Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies. In: Müller, Wolfgang C./Narud, Hanne Marthe (eds.): *Party governance and party democracy. Festschrift to Kaare Strøm*. New York, NY: Springer: 13-31.
- (4) **22.09. Measuring policy positions of political actors I – Expert surveys and Comparative Manifestos Project**
 - Benoit, Kenneth/Laver, Michael (2007): Estimating party policy positions: Comparing expert surveys and hand-coded analysis. *Electoral Studies* 26 (1): 90-107.
 - Mair, Peter (2001): Searching for the positions of political actors: a review of approaches and an evaluation of expert surveys in particular. In: Laver, Michael (ed.): *Estimating the Policy Positions of Political Actors*. London/New York: Routledge: 10-30.
- (5) **29.09. Measuring policy positions of political actors II – Wordscores I**
 - Laver, Michael/Benoit, Kenneth/Garry, John (2003): Extracting Policy Positions from Political Texts Using Words as Data. *American Political Science Review* 97 (2): 311-331.
- (6) **06.10. Measuring policy positions of political actors III – Wordscores II**
 - Klemmensen, Robert/Hobolt, Sara B./Hansen, Martin Ejnar (2007): Estimating policy positions using political texts: An evaluation of the Wordscores approach. *Electoral Studies* 26 (4): 746-755.

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- (7) 13.10. **Measuring policy positions of political actors IV – Wordscores III**
 - Bräuninger, Thomas/Debus, Marc/Müller, Jochen (2013): Estimating Policy Positions of Political Actors Across Countries and Time. *MZES Working Papers Nr. 153*.
- (8) 20.10. **How to analyse coalition formations I – Conditional logit models I**
 - Martin, Lanny W./Stevenson, Randolph T. (2001): Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies. *American Journal of Political Science* 45 (1): 33-50.
 - Martin, Lanny W./Stevenson, Randolph T. (2010): The Conditional Impact of Incumbency on Government Formation. *American Political Science Review* 104 (3): 503-518.
- (9) 27.10. **How to analyse coalition formations II – Conditional logit models II**
 - Bäck, Hanna/Debus, Marc/Müller, Jochen/Bäck, Henry (2013): Regional Government Formation in Varying Multilevel Contexts: A Comparison of Eight European Countries. *Regional Studies* 47 (3): 368-387.
- (10) 03.11. **How to analyse coalition formations III – Conditional logit models III**
 - Bäck, Hanna (2003): Explaining and predicting coalition outcomes: Conclusions from studying data on local coalitions. *European Journal of Political Research* 42 (4): 441-472.
- (11) 10.11. **How to analyse coalition formations III – Mixed logit models I**
 - Glasgow, Garrett/Golder, Matt/Golder, Sona N. (2012): New Empirical Strategies for the Study of Parliamentary Government Formation. *Political Analysis* 20 (2): 248-270.
- (12) 17.11. **How to analyse coalition formations IV – Mixed logit models II**
 - *see above*
- (13) 24.11. **Overview: The empirical analysis of coalition agreements and coalition bargaining**
 - Golder, Sona N. (2010): Bargaining Delays in the Government Formation Process. *Comparative Political Studies* 43 (1): 3-32.
 - Indridason, Indridi H./Kristinsson, Gunnar Helgi (2013): Making words count: Coalition agreements and cabinet management. *European Journal of Political Research* 56 (6): 822-846.
- (14) 01.12. **Evaluation of the course**