

Spring 2020

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Glassmann

Comparative Institutional Analysis

**MA-Research Seminar (Institutions and Global Markets)**

**Title: The Political Economy of Mediterranean Countries**

**Date: Thursdays, weekly, 2.00 – 4.00pm**

**Venue: MAD 130**

**Start: 12.03.2020**

**Course description:**

The seminar provides a detailed account on the political economy of the Mediterranean countries. Theoretically, it builds on the Varieties of Capitalism approach which assumes that Mediterranean countries are so called Mixed Market Economies (MMEs). The authors of this approach claim that MMEs lack beneficial spill-overs from institutional spheres such as corporate governance systems, vocational training markets and industrial relations arenas. In their view, this explains the poor economic performance of Mediterranean economies compared to other cases. However, this approach has started a heated debate in social science about the multifaceted causes for the relatively poor performance of these economies. Students will thus be confronted with various contradictory arguments and will be challenged to find answers on the basis of their own empirical research.

During the course of the seminar, students will carry out in-depth

case studies on the economies of countries such as Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Portugal and Turkey, inquiring empirically into the reasons for entrepreneurial success or failure. This endeavour is prepared by a discussion of case study methodology and techniques as well as a

comprehensive account of the current research on Mediterranean countries and the peculiar institutional design of their political economy.

**Qualification Objectives:**

The aim of the seminar is threefold: first, students are supposed to learn case study techniques. This enables them to do comparative institutional analysis by using quantitative as well as qualitative approaches. Second, they will address contemporary issues, such as trade imbalances in the Eurozone, problems concerning female employment and education or challenges regarding enterprise cooperation in the face of global market competition. Third, students will learn how the functioning of markets and hierarchies depend on diverging cultural practices which are differently developed among economies and societies. Thus, students become acquainted with the peculiar institutional features of the Mediterranean economies, expanding their understanding of the cultural diversity of markets and entrepreneurial activity.

**Exam and literature:**

Students will write a comprehensive research paper (10-12 pages) individually or in groups with other students documenting their empirical findings on the case they analysed. They will also present their findings in class. The literature will be made available online.

**Logistics and course plan (first session: 12.03.2020)**

Session 1

*Introduction to Course*

## **Institutional Design of Mediterranean Economies: Commonalities and Differences**

### Session 2

*Varieties of Capitalism: The Mixed Market Economy*

Hall, Peter; Soskice, David (2001): An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism, in: Hall, Peter; Soskice, David (Hg.): Varieties of Capitalism. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 1-68.

### Session 3

*Welfare and the Gender Dimension in Mediterranean Economies*

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta (1999): Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 32-72.

### Session 4

*Families and the Regional Dimension in Mediterranean Economies*

Glassmann, Ulrich (2016): Social Rights, Family Networks and Regional Varieties of Capitalism, in: Regional Studies, 50 (1): 35-51.

### Session 5

*Types of Skill Systems and the Mediterranean Economies*

Estevez-Abe et al. (2001): Social Protection and the Formation of Skills: A Reinterpretation of the Welfare State, in: Hall, Peter; Soskice, David (Hg.): Varieties of Capitalism. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 145-183.

## **Case Study Methodology and Techniques**

### Session 6

*How To Conduct a Case Study? Theory and Practice I*

Yin, Robert K. (2014): Case Study Research. Design and Methods. Los Angeles: Sage, Chapter 2: Designing Case Studies: 27-69.

### Session 7

*How to conduct a case study? Theory and Practice II*

Yin, Robert K. (2014): Case Study Research. Design and Methods. Los Angeles: Sage, Chapter 4: Collecting Case Study Evidence: 103-130.

## **Examples of Case Studies**

### Session 8

*The Turkish Case of Capitalism*

Kiran, Jiyan (2018) Expanding the framework of the varieties of capitalism: Turkey as a hierarchical market economy. *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 9 (1): 42–51

### Session 9

*Comparing Southern European Economies – a European Semi-Periphery?*

Gambarotto, Francesca; Rangone, Marco and Solari, Stefano (2019): Financialization and Deindustrialization in the Southern European Periphery. *Athens Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, 5 (3): 151-172.

## **Case Studies on Mixed Market Economies (Presentation of Group Work by Students)**

Session 10) – 12)