

Re-Think Conference Fall 2022

Changing Voters, Changing Parties: Re-Defining the Electoral Landscape in Europe

October 20-21, 2022

University of Pittsburgh
European Studies Center
University Center for International Studies
4400 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA

Thursday, October 20, 2022

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM	"Party Branding in Europe: A Long-Term Perspective" (Endre Borbáth) Discussant: Matt Avina
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	"The Transnational Brand: Ideological Distance from the Party Family and Voter Perceptions" (Jeffrey Nonnemacher) Discussant: Endre Borbáth
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	"Do Voters Respond to Party Rebranding? Experimental Evidence from the Netherlands" (Matt Avina) Discussant: Ruth Dassonneville
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	"Multidimensional Party System Polarization in Europe" (Jelle Koedam) Discussant: Noam Gidron
1:30 PM - 2:15 PM	"The Multiple Two-Dimensional Spaces of Western Electoral Politics in Voters' Own Words" (Noam Gidron) Discussant: Zeynep Somer-Topcu
2:15 PM- 3:00 PM	"Repeated Exposure and Voting Behaviour: Evidence from Fridays for Future" (António Valentim) Discussant: Jeffrey Nonnemacher
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	"Re-imagining Communities in the Neoliberal Era: The Decline of Social Democracy, the Rise of the Populist Right and the Fate of Democracy" (Sheri Berman)

Friday, October 21, 2022

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM	"Aggregators, Centripetors, or Stickers? Party Responsiveness to Public Opinion in a Multi-Dimensional Policy Space" (Jonathan Polk) Discussant: Lawrence Ezrow
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	"Government Supporter Responsiveness" (Lawrence Ezrow) Discussant: Jonathan Polk
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	"This Land is Our Land: Radical Right Parties and the Environmental Issue" (Jae-Jae Spoon and Alex Honeker) Discussant: António Valentim
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	"The Information Environment and Perceptions of Parties' Ideological Positions" (Zeynep Somer-Topcu) Discussant: Jelle Koedam
1:15 PM - 2:00 PM	"The Effectiveness of Group Appeals" (Ruth Dassonneville) Discussant: Bonnie Meguid
2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	"More than Window Dressing? Salience and Positions on Women's Interests among Populist Radical Right Parties" (Bonnie Meguid) Discussant: Nina Obermeier
2:45 PM - 3:30 PM	"Extremism and the Gender Gap: Explaining Women's Increasing Internationalism" (Nina Obermeier) Discussant: Alex Honeker

Participants:

Matthias Avina, University of Pittsburgh
Sheri Berman, Barnard College, Columbia University
Endre Borbáth, Freie Universitat Berlin
Ruth Dassonneville, University of Montreal
Lawrence Ezrow, University of Essex
Noam Gidron, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Alex Honeker, University of Pittsburgh
Jelle Koedam, University of Zunich
Bonnie Meguid, University of Rochester
Jeffrey Nonnemacher, University of Pittsburgh
Nina Obermeier, University of Pennsylvania
Jonathan Polk, Lund University
Zeynep Somer-Topcu, University of Texas
António Valentim, Humboldt University of Berlin

Acknowledgements:

The organizers are grateful for generous funding from the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union through a Jean Monnet Project Grant (ReTHINK). Additional funding provided by the U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center Grant.

Organizers:

Scientific Organizers: Jae-Jae Spoon (Political Science Department) and Pablo Fernandez-Vazquez (Carlos III University) Logistics: European Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh

The organizers are grateful for generous funding from:







SHERI BERMAN

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Re-imagining Communities in the Neoliberal Era: The Decline of Social Democracy, the Rise of the Populist Right and the Fate of Democracy



THURSDAY
OCTOBER 20
TIME
4:00 PM



Over the past decades, Western democracies have experienced dramatic change. In Europe, the most obvious is the decline of the mainstream parties, particularly those on the center-left, that long anchored and defined politics in the region. This talk will examine the reasons for the decline of center-left or social democratic parties in Europe, stressing the role played by these parties changing ideas about the nature of the economy and society.

These changing ideas, I will argue, created incentives and opportunities for new parties, particularly on the populist right, to change their own platforms and appeals in ways that helped reshape how citizens viewed themselves and their relationships with their fellow citizens.