

Doctoral Course, Summer Semester 2022, University of Konstanz

**Politics of Inequality:
Economic Inequality, Political Inequality, and Backlash**

Brian Burgoon,

University of Amsterdam Professor of Political Economy

b.m.burgoon@uva.nl

Dates: June 20-24

Times: 10.00 – 16.30 (10.00-11.30, 13.00-14.30, 15.00-16.30)

Format: in presence, Y 213

Platform: ILIAS

This course explores the politics of economic inequality: the ways that economic inequalities have their origins and implications in political conflict and cooperation. The central questions to be addressed in the literature, discussion and PhD participant contributions are fourfold: (1) what are the key conceptions and patterns of economic inequality relevant to political life?; (2) what are the origins of such varying inequalities, origins such as globalization, technological change or political representation, etc.?; (3) how do economic inequalities constitute or cause political inequalities (e.g. inequalities in symbolic, descriptive or substantive representation)?; and (4) what have been and are likely to be the important political backlashes against such economic and political inequalities (e.g. in anti-globalization politics, populist radicalism, civil and international violence)?

In the one-week course, we will devote a day to each of these questions, respectively. And a final day will be devoted to presentation and discussion of participants' own research as it relates to one or more of the four themes of politics of inequality. Participants are expected to be present, do the readings, and participate fully in the discussions in each day's meetings. Participants are also expected to fulfil two written requirements: brief daily reflection memos on the readings, to be prepared and submitted by the morning of each session; and a brief (4 page) research design on a topic within the themes of the politics of inequality (and presumably and preferably linked to each participants' ongoing PhD project research).

Interested participants are asked to send an e-mail to sophia.timmermann@uni-konstanz.de until 17 April 2022 to register for participation.

Sample reading material:

Karl Polanyi. (2016). *The Great Transformation*. Boston: Beacon press, 1944. (selected pages/chapters)

Lakner, C., & Milanovic, B. (2016). Global income distribution: from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the Great Recession. *The World Bank Economic Review*, 30(2), 203-232.

Cederman, L-E., Weidmann, B., and Gleditsch, K. (2011) "Horizontal inequalities and ethnonationalist civil war: A global comparison." *American Political Science Review* 105, no. 3: 478-495.

Burgoon, B., van Noort, S., Rooduijn, M., & Underhill, G. (2019). Positional deprivation and support for radical right and radical left parties. *Economic Policy*, 34(97), 49-93.

Bergh, A., & Nilsson, T. (2010). Do liberalization and globalization increase income inequality?. *European Journal of political economy*, 26(4), 488-505.

Lupu, N., & Pontusson, J. (2011). The structure of inequality and the politics of redistribution. *American Political Science Review*, 105(2), 316-336.

Gilens, M., & Page, B. I. (2014). Testing theories of American politics: Elites, interest groups, and average citizens. *Perspectives on politics*, 12(3), 564-581.