

**University of Siena**  
**Master Programme in Global Governance and Cultural Diplomacy**  
**Jean Monnet Module EUreACT**  
*Academic Year 2015-2016*

**Issues on European elites**

**Instructors:**

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**Goals:** This module aims to discuss at first the recent literature in the field of elite studies, with a particular focus on the European scenario. Three topics in particular will be covered: the analysis of the political and social profile of contemporary ruling elite in Europe, the problems of selection of the elite and the accountability of the leader, and the increasing variance among contemporary party elites in the *European Elite System*.

The second part of the module consists of a laboratory on the legislative activity of the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). Students will be asked to organize a research panel collecting and discussing data on the effectiveness of the actions of MEPs from different parliamentary party groups (PPG) and national delegations (NDs). The analysis will be based mainly on indicators of presence and pro-activity of the representatives, and on a few policy issues like immigration, security, external action of the EU and relationship with development countries.

**Outline**

**Seminar one**

*Elite role and elites structure. Ministerial and representative Elites in Europe*

Reading:

- Dumont, P., L. Verzichelli, *Selection and de-selection of ministers*, in J. Magone (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of European Politics*, London, Routledge, 2014, pp. 451-465
- Cotta, M. and L. Verzichelli, *The development of political elites in Europe*, in J. Magone (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of European Politics*, London, Routledge, 2014, pp. 421-438.
- H. Best and L. Vogel, *The sociology of legislators and legislatures in The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*, 2014.

**Seminar 2**

*European Elites and the populist challenge*

- De Vries, C. and E.E. Edwards (2009), "Taking Europe To Its Extremes: Extremist Parties and Public Euroscepticism", in *Party Politics* 15(1): 5-28.
- Mudde, Cas (2010) "The Populist Radical Right: A Pathological Normalcy", *West European Politics*, 33: 6, 1167 — 1186
- Rydgren, Jens. 2005. "Is Extreme Right-Wing Populism Contagious? Explaining the Emergence of a New Party Family." *European Journal of Political Research* 44: 413-37.

- Mudde C. and C. Rovira Kaltwasser (2013). Exclusionary vs. Inclusionary Populism: Comparing Contemporary Europe and Latin America. *Government and Opposition*, 48, pp 147- 174.

### **Seminar 3**

#### *European party elites and European Integration*

##### Readings:

- AAVV, Measuring party positions in Europe: The Chapel Hill Expert Survey Trend File, 1999-2010". *Party Politics*. Forthcoming
- I. van Biezen, P. Mair and T. Poguntke, Going, going, . . . gone? The decline of party membership in contemporary Europe, 'European Journal of Political Research' Volume 51, Issue 1, pages 24–56, January 2012

### **Seminar 4:**

#### *Crisis of democracy and elite responsiveness in Europe*

- P. Mair, *Ruling the Void*, London, Verso, 2013 chapters 1-3
- B. Manin, *The principles of Representative democracy*, CUP, 1997

### **Seminar 5:**

#### *Party leader selection*

##### Readings:

- Cross, W. J.B. Pilet, *Selection of Political Party Leaders in Contemporary Parliamentary Democracies*, Routledge 2014
- Cross, W., A. Blais, , *Who select the party leader?* *Party Politics* vol. 18 no. 2, 2012 , 127-150

### **Laboratory**

The following seminars will be based on the work of the students.

#### Seminar 1. Watching MEPs: data availability and reports.

The first part of the Seminar focuses on the main research experiences on MEPs activities and their results. In the second part websites and data sets will be consulted, in order to collect data on MEPS and their activities. European Parliament plenary sessions and committees will be considered as the two main arenas for MEPs to play their role. Students will be divided in work groups, according to different levels of analysis (national political party, European political party, national delegation etc.) and will be assigned to develop brief work packages (data gathering).

#### Seminar 2. Activism Indicators and Issues.

The construction of indicators measuring different activities and of an aggregate “activism index”, will be explained. Examples of observations of MEPs activism related to some explanatory factors will be shown. Moreover students will be asked to prepare and present short papers on MEPs activism related to the relevant issues at the stake in the European political debate.

Students will be also invited to visit the LAPS (CIRCaP laboratory on political and Social analysis) to follow the I EUEngage survey on European political Elite. The research will be held between April and June 2016. Positions as stagiaires are available.