

WORKSHOP 8

8. Party Government and Parliamentary Democracy in the New Europe

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The study of Party Government is among the *core* themes within Comparative Politics. Particularly in Europe the comparative analysis of Party Government has been on the research agenda for long. The workshop aims - among other things - on assessing the various extant approaches to the study of Representative Government. In addition, its concepts and extant data in relation to the performances of European democracies in East *and* West Europe are in need of further attention. Finally, the workshop provides an opportunity to explore new theoretical avenues, modes of analysis and related evidence to develop the study of Party Government further and across more democracies in Europe.

This workshop sets out to do this by inviting comparativists active or interested in this field. Among its aims are: taking stock of extant theoretical approaches and related comparative data as well as the introduction of fresh approaches, new evidence, and case-based, cross-system and cross-time analyses of the structuration and behaviour of Party Government across the *whole* of Europe. In particular the relationship between parliamentary democracy and party government is an important dimension to consider. The workshop invites papers on the following topics in particular:

- The formation process of coalition government and multi-party system dynamics.
- Types of government and variations in ideological composition and party representation.
- Consequences of government termination and patterns of democratic (in)stability.
- Executive/Legislative relations and the room for manoeuvre of party government.
- The role of political elites and organized interests in the functioning of party government.
- Policy seeking behaviour and related performances of democratic party government.
- Assessing existing data collections of party government and further developments.

The type of papers that are welcomed ought to cover one or more of the topics outlined as well as be of a comparative nature. Obviously the area of research is Europe (East and West). Finally, papers confronting theory and evidence are particularly welcome.