**MPhil in Politics and International Studies 2020-2021**

**The Crisis of Party Democracy:**

**Origins, Consequences, Remedies**

**Course leader: Chris Bickerton (****cb799@cam.ac.uk****)**

Time: 11am - 1pm Thursday, starting on 21st January 2021.

This is a comparative politics course focusing on the crisis of political parties and the problems faced by representative government across advanced democracies. The course begins by studying party democracy as a distinctive political regime rooted in 20th century mass politics. It then considers the pressures and challenges faced by party democracy since the 1970s, culminating in the contemporary “populist explosion”. The course then ends looking at possible remedies to the crisis, including alternatives to political parties.

**1: What is party democracy (in theory)?**

*What are the definitions of party democracy, as a concept? How might this type of representative democracy differ from those that came before? What role does the political party play in party democracy? This section considers these questions from a conceptual point of view, remaining at the level of generality.*

Katz, Richard and Mair, Peter (1995) ‘Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party’, *Party Politics*, 1:1, 5-28

Manin, Bernard (1997) *Principles of Representative Government* (Cambridge) Chapter 6

Bickerton, Christopher and Invernizzi, Carlo (2015) ‘Populism and technocracy: opposites or complements?’, *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 20:2, 186-206

Caramani, Daniele (2017) Will vs. Reason: The Populist and Technocratic Forms of Political Representation and Their Critique to Party Government’, *APSR*, 111:1, 54-67

**2: What is party democracy (in practice)?**

*What does party democracy mean in practice? In other words, what is the concrete form that party democracy has taken in individual states, such as Britain, Germany, Italy and France? Which are the parties that were most important in establishing party democracy as a political regime?*

Maier. Charles, S (1983) ‘“Fictitious bonds… of wealth and law”: on the theory and practice of interest representation’. In Suzanne D. Berger (ed.) *Organizing Interests in Western Europe: Pluralism, corporatism, and the transformation of politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bickerton, Christopher and Invernizzi Accetti, Carlo (2020) *Technopopulism: The New Logic of Democratic Politics* (Oxford). Chapter 3.

Judt, Tony (2005) P*ostwar: A History of Europe Since 1989* (William Heinemann). Chapter 8.

Further readings:

Rosanvallon, Pierre (1998) *Le Peuple Introuvable: Histoire de la représentation démocratique en France*, Paris: Gallimard.

**3: Origins of the crisis (I): Endogenous explanations**

*Explanations for the crisis of party democracy often emphasize changes within the political system itself i.e. endogenous explanations of change. What are these explanations and to which countries are they applied? How convincing are they?*

On the crisis itself:

Papdopoulos, Yannis (2013) *Democracy in Crisis? Politics, Governance and Policy* (Palgrave) Chapter 1.

Endogenous explanations:

Katz, Richard and Mair, Peter. 2018. *Democracy and the Cartelization of Parties* (Oxford). Chapter 2.

Katz, Richard and Mair, Peter (2009) ‘The Cartel Party Thesis: A Restatement’, *Perspectives on Politics*, 7: 4

**4: Origins of the crisis (II): Exogenous explanations**

*Some explanations for the crisis of party democracy stress the importance of external factors, notably globalization and – in the case of party democracy in Europe – European integration. Other exogenous explanations include the role of the media in undermining party democracy and the role of non-majoritarian institutions (i.e. technocracy).*

Papdopoulos, Yannis (2013) *Democracy in Crisis? Politics, Governance and Policy* (Palgrave) Chapters 2, 3 and 4.

Kriesi et al (2008) *West European Politics in the Age of Globalization* (Cambridge) Chapter 1

**5:** **Consequences of the crisis (I)**

*This first part on the consequences of the crisis will focus on politics i.e. the consequences of the crisis of party democracy for the political system and the functioning of the political parties, including the nature of the competition between them.*

Bickerton, Christopher and Invernizzi Accetti, Carlo (2020) *Technopopulism*, chapter 4 (first half).

Foa et al, *Global Satisfaction with Democracy 2020,* University of Cambridge

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/system/files/report2020_003.pdf>

Ignatieff, Michael. 2017. ‘Enemies vs. Adversaries’, *The New York Times*, October 16th, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/17/opinion/enemies-vs-adversaries.html>

Rosenblum, Nancy. 2008. ‘Anything but partisanship’, Dissent Magazine

<https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/anything-but-partisanship-anti-partyism-bipartisanship-and-the-luster-of-independence>

**6:** **Consequences of the crisis (II)**

*This second part on the consequences of the crisis will focus on the wider ramifications of the crisis of party democracy, looking at the impact on individuals and society.*

Bickerton, Christopher and Invernizzi Accetti, Carlo (2020) *Technopopulism*, chapter 4 (second half).

**7: Remedies and Alternatives**

*The crisis of party democracy has generated an extensive discussion around how to overcome the crisis, including solutions to the challenges to party democracy and ideas about how to replace party democracy with new forms of political competition. Movements such as the Five Star Movement in Italy and Podemos in Spain presented themselves as alternatives to party democracy, though they have become governing parties themselves.*

White, Jonathan and Ypi, Lea (2010) ‘Rethinking the Modern Prince: Partisanship and the Democratic Ethos’, *Political Studies*, 58:4, 809-828

Gerbaudo, Paolo (2019) ‘Are digital parties more democratic than traditional parties? Evaluating Podemos and Movimento Cinqe Stelle’s online decision-making platforms’, *Party Politics*, early online 5 November 2019