

Comparative Constitutional Analysis

Research seminar (postgraduate level, optional course for political science, public administration and economics)

Course convenors: Thomas König and Andreas Warntjen

This research seminar is aimed at analysing the present constitution-building process within the European Union. The focus will be on a two-level perspective to understand the intergovernmental negotiation and ratification of EU treaties. The course consists of two parts. The first part comprises an introduction into constitutional political economy and comparative institutional analysis. The second part is devoted to the preparation of the participants' research project. Specifically, we will discuss methodological issues in estimating positions of political actors and comparative case studies.

Each participant is expected to contribute to the seminar by scrutinising the formation of national positions and ratification provisions in the accession countries. This is to be done by comparative case studies of two accession countries, examining the domestic procedures regarding the national preference formation, the provisions for ratification and the preferences of the relevant actors. The primary question is how domestic structures and preferences determine the intergovernmental negotiation and treaty outcome. The seminar is linked to an international research endeavour that is currently being carried out. The presentations and term papers can be used as a basis for future master/diploma theses.