



European Union Centre of Excellence Lecture Series

Public Discourse Meets Party Politics: National Parliamentary Debates about European Integration



Dr. Frank Wendler

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15:30 - 17:00pm

David Turpin A357

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Abstract

As the EU is going through turbulent political times, national parliaments have become the primary arena for the public justification and the political contestation of its policies and decision-making. In this context, the lecture will discuss how theoretical concepts used for the analysis of elite discourse and the framing of justifications for European integration can be linked to research on the evolution of party politics on the EU, and the Europeanization of national parliaments. Empirically, the talk will present findings from a comparative research project on plenary debates of national parliaments on recent topics of European integration.

Bio

Frank Wendler is currently a DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science and the Jackson School for International Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle. His primary research interest is the study of European integration and the comparative analysis of political responses to the politics of the European Union at the national level. He has published widely in numerous peer-reviewed journals in the field of German and European politics, and is the author of the forthcoming book: "Debating Europe in National Parliaments. Discursive Justification and Political Polarization" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). In this book, he presents an original comparative analysis of plenary debates on several topics of European integration (including EU Treaty Reform, the Eurozone financial crisis, and EU enlargement) in the national parliaments of Austria, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

