



Autocratic Waves in Europe and Latin America: Diffusion and Counter-Diffusion

Invitation

Book preview and reception

Kurt Weyland

Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 5.30 p.m., Room A 300

All over the world, authoritarianism seems to be advancing. Developments in Turkey and Venezuela, right-wing populism in Europe, the backlash against the Arab Spring, and the ever growing role of China and Russia on the world stage are cases in point. What can we learn from previous autocratic waves?

To register, please reply by November 11, 2017, to Andrew Crawford, andrew.crawford@giga-hamburg.de

In his new book on autocratic waves in Europe and Latin America, Kurt Weyland examines the diffusion of authoritarian rule in the interwar years and the 1960s and 1970s. Weyland attributes these autocratic waves to an overreaction on the part of conservative circles: Overestimating the Russian and Cuban revolutions, they promoted aggressive authoritarian counter-diffusion strategies. These disproportionate responses to communist challenges reflect core mechanisms of bounded rationality. Inferential shortcuts induce people to overrate the significance of dramatic, vivid events and to draw remarkably firm conclusions from such outstanding occurrences. Accordingly, the radical left overestimated the replicability of the Russian and Cuban Revolutions – but the reactionary right did so as well. As conservatives feared communism, their panic prompted the wave-like adoption of reactionary autocracy – a trajectory differing from the spread of right-wing populism in contemporary democracies.

The WZB provides child care. If you are interested, please respond by November 1, 2017, indicating the number of children and their age to Friederike Theilen-Kosch, friederike.theilen-kosch@wzb.eu

Our event location is wheelchair-accessible. If you need support, please let Friederike Theilen-Kosch know: friederike.theilen-kosch@wzb.eu

Kurt Weyland is Mike Hogg Professor in Liberal Arts at the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin, and a member of the IDCAR network's steering committee. Professor Weyland's research focuses on democratization and authoritarian rule, on social policy and policy diffusion, and on populism in Latin America and Europe. His latest book, "Making Waves: Democratic Contention in Europe and Latin America since the Revolutions of 1848," was published by Cambridge University Press in 2014.

Introduction

Bert Hoffmann, Head of the GIGA Berlin Office and one of the IDCAR network's Principal Investigators.

Discussant

Johannes Gerschewski, lecturer at Humboldt University Berlin and an expert on legitimization strategies of authoritarian regimes in East Asia and beyond.

Moderator

Alexander Schmotz, researcher in the WZB Research Unit Democracy and Democratization and a member of the IDCAR network.

Co-hosted by WZB and IDCAR

The IDCAR network brings together scholars working on the International Diffusion and Cooperation of Authoritarian Regimes. IDCAR is coordinated at GIGA in Hamburg and funded by the Leibniz Competition Programme. The WZB Research Unit Democracy and Democratization is one of its 14 partner institutions in Europe and North America.

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