



## Research Seminar

### A Typology of Institutional Change

Johannes Gerschewski

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Previous research on institutional change has concentrated on two types of change. On the one hand, the dualism of path dependency and critical junctures has advanced our understanding of how rapid change occurs due to exogenous shocks. On the other hand, a more recent critique has established a better understanding of endogenous, gradual change. In his talk, Johannes Gerschewski will discuss a typology of institutional change, argue that current research tends to overlook a "missing diagonal", and suggest that we need to disentangle the sources of institutional change (exogenous vs. endogenous) and the time horizon in which a cause operates (sudden vs. gradual) in order to arrive at a more nuanced picture of how institutional change unfolds.

Dr. Johannes Gerschewski is a lecturer at the *Hochschule für Politik* at the TUM. His research focuses on comparing political regimes, democratic and autocratic political theory, as well as research methodology. He previously taught at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where he also obtained his PhD in 2014, and was a pre- and post-doctoral fellow at the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB).

### Foreign Direct Investment and Citizen Support for Autocratic Rule

Tobias Rommel

Technical University of Munich

Do the distributional consequences of economic globalization for citizens in autocracies affect their support for autocratic rule? Tobias Rommel examines this under-researched question focusing on foreign direct investment. He argues that low-skilled individuals fare worse economically the more they are exposed to foreign investment. Hence, the poorly educated experience higher economic risk that makes them more likely to oppose autocratic rule and support democratization. By contrast, highly skilled individuals' wages and job security increase when they work for multinational companies. This leads them to support authoritarian rule at the expense of democratic participation. Tobias Rommel will discuss two empirical studies that corroborate these hypotheses: the first utilizes cross-national survey data from 16 autocratic regimes; the second complements this analysis with longitudinal survey data from the Russian Federation. Their findings call into question the notion that economic globalization increases demand for democracy on the part of the population as a whole.



Dr. Tobias Rommel is a postdoctoral research fellow at the *Hochschule für Politik* at the TUM. His research, some of which has been published in *Comparative Political Studies*, focuses on the political consequences of financial flows in the developing world, the politics of autocratic rule, and advances in survey methodology. He studied at the University of Heidelberg (B.A. and M.A. in Political Science and Economics) and earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Zurich in 2018.

**Hochschule für Politik München - H.001**

**Richard-Wagner-Straße 1, Munich**

**7 February 2019 — 12:00 - 14:00**