Research Seminar

The Erosion of Institutional Comparative Advantage and Opposition to Globalization

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What explains political divisions over globalization? Timm Betz will address this question based on joint work with Weiwen Yin (Education University of Hong Kong), starting from a theory of institutional comparative advantage and an examination of its political implications. Production processes differ in the extent to which they rely on linkages between firms, and thus in their contract intensity. Where property rights are strong, such as in the United States, firms are better able to produce, and therefore export, contract-intensive products. Over the past decades, the global strengthening in property rights institutions has eroded this institutional advantage, which left an imprint in domestic politics: Vote shares for Donald J. Trump, who ran on an anti-globalization platform, were highest, and legislator votes on trade agreements were more protectionist, in U.S. counties with contract-intensive local economies. Additionally, individuals from more contract-intensive industries hold more negative attitudes about trade. Betz and Yin thus offer a link between global institutional dynamics and domestic politics, identify a new source of cleavages over globalization, and highlight the importance of domestic production networks and contracting institutions for the politics over globalization.

Prof. Dr. Timm Betz is Assistant Professor of International Political Economy at the Hochschule für Politik München and the TUM School of Governance. His research examines how global markets and international rules shape domestic political coalitions and contests between governments, firms, and citizens. His work has appeared in, for example, the American Political Science Review, International Organization, the Journal of Politics, and Political Analysis. He studied political science and economics at Freie Universität Berlin and at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 2015.

Hochschule für Politik München - Virtual Seminar Room
https://tum-conf.zoom.us/j/63279561947
Please email Tim Büthe <buthe@hfp.tum.de> for the password to access the room.

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Convenors: Prof. Tim Büthe and Prof. Yannis Theocharis on behalf of the TUM-GOV Center for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies