Social Movements in Europe
Thursdays, 12:15–13:45 h
Unicom Building, Room 4680

1) Aims
Political protest and social movements are today pervasive features of contemporary societies. Social movement politics have become increasingly routinized and an institutionalized element of contemporary politics. But the European multi-level governance systems is often seen as a particular challenge to civil society actors which usually are firmly rooted in their national contexts of mobilization and support.
In this course, we will take a closer look at political protests in Europe. Are we witnessing a Europeanization of social movements? Does protest in Europe address European issues? Or does it merely use the European stage to influence national policy processes? How can the differences in relation to forms and scope of protest among European countries be explained?
The course will start with an assessment of the relevant theoretical and empirical literature. We will then focus on recent protest mobilizations and try to answer the question to which extent we witness a Europeanization of protest, and where and when social movements were able to influence policy-making at the European level.

2) Course Requirements
This Bachelor course introduces into the field of social movement research and explores in more detail the issue of protest and social movements in Europe. Students are expected to read the required literature, as it builds the basis for collective discussion in the course. All participants have to present in at least one session information about theories of social movements, research methods, or case studies. Students can decide whether they will develop a small empirical research project or address a theoretical question in their term paper.
To receive your credit point it is required to
• regularly participate in the course
• give a PowerPoint presentation
• write a term paper until 15 March 2016

3) Course Schedule
1 15.10.15 Introduction
2 22.10.15 Contention in an Emerging Polity
3 29.10.15 Europeanization from Below?

4 5.11.15 Theories of Social Movements

5 12.11.15 Farmers

6 19.11.15 Women

7 26.11.15 Migrants

8 3.12.15 Methods of Social Movement Research


9 10.12.15 Mid Term Evaluation
• What have we learned so far?

10 17.12.15 Peace

11 14.1.16 Social Fora

12 21.1.16 Right Wing Extremism

13 28.1.16 Intellectual Property Rights

14 4.2.16 Closing Session