

Game changer? Democracy in Times of Crises

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20h, 4 ECT

ABOUT THIS SEMINAR. The goal of this seminar is to introduce students to the phenomenon and controversies of democracy in crisis mode. While a pandemic in a globalized world is a new phenomenon, democracy in 'crisis-mode' is by no means new. Only ten years ago the eurozone was destabilized by a very profound economic crisis and a migration crisis. Extraordinary situations therefore seem to be a new normality of our times. Against this background, the seminar introduces students to both normative and empirical debates regarding democracy in crisis mode. Regarding the normative dimension, we will discuss the following questions: Which extraordinary practices can be accepted during a crisis? Do we need a rigid or a flexible approach? Should global or international crises be tackled locally, nationally or internationally? The seminar will also introduce students to contemporary empirical debates addressing the following questions: To what extent have the sovereign debt crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine affected democracy at the national and supranational level? Do we observe a similar or a different trend across various crises? Are the changes observed of a temporary or a permanent nature, i.e. do they affect the DNA of representative democracy in Europe? The course draws on political science but also IR literature, however, it is open to students with different backgrounds.