

Bodenseeseminar 2019 – Workshop descriptions

Workshop I

Yes to Europe, but how? - The different visions of European fractions

This workshop aims at exploring and analyzing the different positions of fractions of the European Parliament. How important are they in decision making and to what extent do different interests influence their positions? What is the impact of national party interests on fraction positions and in which cases do they lead to serious conflicts?

After a short introduction to the basics of decision and law making in the EP, including the ballot system, the EU as institutional environment and the Spitzenkandidat process, we will firstly discuss which decisions can actually be made by the EP.

This will be our foundation to analyze the historical development of the fractions and their current positions on further European Integration. Are there inconsistencies in their behavior and why is the party discipline within a fraction different from the one within a national party?

In combination with current research and upcoming trends, such as the upsurge of European Parties like Volt, this workshop will offer participants an idea of the differences between European fractions and which factors influence their positions and decision making.

Workshop II

European elections: Who c/dares - Speak up and act for Europe

For many people «Europe» still is not a topic of everyday relevance. They don't know or realize that Europe touches their lives in so many ways, enhancing their live-quality.

To communicate Europe is a special mission, because most media and political representatives focus on negative developments or try to create scandalous news to gain attention. Therefore it is quite a challenge to "market" the joint Europe in a credible way.

One of the most efficient ways is the peer-to-peer communication, because it is authentic and close to the people. With the right tools and messages, through events, direct communication and via social media, it is possible to target and reach a broad audience and gain a high impact.

In this workshop we will dive into the following topics:

- Understanding and interpreting the different channels of EU-communication
- Detecting authentic ways of pro-European communication
- Considering the different motives for taking a vote
- Creating motivational communication strategies, e.g. by using emotional dramaturgy
- Finding strategies to reach indecisive voters
- Detecting and answer populist messages
- Invalidating EU-myths
- Establishing an atmosphere of trust in a mutual Europe

Workshop III

The impact of disinformation – EP elections perspective

We live in the age of disinformation. Fake news casually used by President Trump in his daily communication, outrageous lies spread during Brexit referendum, flat Earth conspiracy theories or denials of climate change – all of this has been dominating public discourse for a long time now. But what does disinformation or “fake news” mean? Who spreads them and why, who believes in them and who benefits? And most importantly, how do you become aware of the media environment around you. This will become more and more important as the European Parliament elections this May are approaching. These and many other issues will be discussed at the workshop “The impact of disinformation: EP elections perspective” in Bregenz from the 26th to 28th of April.

Through this workshop we will learn about the different types of disinformation and provide you with skills and tools on how to detect and analyze disinformation online. We will also analyze what kind of disinformation techniques exist and discuss how they are used in the content of the elections, and how they can affect the outcome of the European Parliament elections in 2019. We will challenge your critical thinking and objective reasoning capabilities through the basics of debating.