

LEADERSHIP IN MODERN DEMOCRACIES:

PRESIDENTIALIZATION, DIGITAL COMMUNICATION, AND DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Starting from a discussion of the presidentialization thesis in the light of more recent developments, the seminar would proceed to the discussion of the impact of social media communication on political leadership and political parties. In particular, we will discuss how the necessary skills for successful political leadership may have changed and what this might mean for the quality of democracy and political accountability.

Suggested reading:

Poguntke, Thomas & Paul Webb (2005), 'The Presidentialization of Politics in Democratic Societies? A Framework for Analysis', in: Thomas Poguntke & Paul Webb (eds.), *The Presidentialization of Politics. A Comparative Study of Modern Democracies*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1 - 25.

Poguntke, Thomas, Susan Scarrow & Paul D Webb (2025), 'Party Leadership Selection and Party Leaders' Powers: Empowered Grassroots or Leader-Centric Parties?', in: *Parliamentary Affairs*, DOI: 10.1093/pa/gsaf020 (online first).

WHO DECIDES IN POLITICAL PARTIES?

FROM INTRA-PARTY DEMOCRACY TO DEMOCRATIC OUTCOMES

This seminar will discuss the modes of decision-making within parties. Particular attention will be given to different logics of intra-party decision-making depending on whether plebiscitary or assembly-based modes are used. Intra-party decision-making is today greatly influenced through mass media and social media communication. At the same time, state regulation play an important role here.

Suggested reading:

Brause, Simon D. & Thomas Poguntke (2026), 'Measuring Intra-Party Democracy on a Global Scale', in: *Party Politics*, Vol. 32, No. 1 pp. 155-164. DOI: 13540688251323756 (online first 2025).

Scarrow, Susan E., Paul D. Webb & Thomas Poguntke (2022), 'Intra-Party Decision-making in Contemporary Europe: Improving Representation or Ruling with Empty Shells? ', in: *Irish Political Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 2, pp. 196 - 217. DOI: 10.1080/07907184.2022.2046430.

von dem Berge, Benjamin & Thomas Poguntke (2017), 'Varieties of Intra-Party Democracy: Conceptualisation and Index Construction', in: Susan E. Scarrow, Paul D. Webb & Thomas Poguntke (eds.), *Organizing Political Parties: Representation, Participation and Power*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 136 – 157.