

Online Conference

Theories of the Contemporary Divide in Western Societies

15 - 17 December, 2021

Scientific Organisers:

Liesbet Hooghe | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, European University Institute

Gary Marks | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, European University Institute

Introduction

How do influential approaches in political science shed light on the contemporary political divide in Western societies? This conference asks prominent researchers to probe the power and limitations of a key theory/approach for explaining political polarization in Western societies.

The conference will take place over three afternoons, with five plenary sessions each devoted to a particular theoretical perspective. *Day 1*: Cleavage Theory (Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks); Political Economy (Torben Iversen and David Soskice). *Day 2*: The Politics of Space (Catherine De Vries); Affective Polarization (Matthew Levendusky); *Day 3*: Worldview Politics (Marc Hetherington and Caroline Lancaster). Each session is introduced by the author(s) followed by two commentaries. We then open to discussion from the floor.



Programme

15 December

14:30 - 14:45 Welcome

Erik Jones | RSCAS Director, European University Institute

PLENARY I: CLEAVAGE THEORY (Chair: Jan Rovny, Sciences Po)

14:45 - 16:15 ***The Social Roots of the Transnational Cleavage: Sex, Education, and Occupation***

Liesbet Hooghe | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, European University Institute

Gary Marks | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, European University Institute

Commentaries:

Kate McNamara | Georgetown University

Daniele Caramani | European University Institute

16:15 - 16:30 *Break*

PLENARY II: AFFECTIVE POLARIZATION (Chair: Ruth Dassonneville)

16:30 - 18:00 ***(Affective) Polarization in America: When It Matters Politically and What It Means for Democracy***

Matthew Levendusky | University of Pennsylvania

Commentaries:

Elisabeth Ivarsflaten | University of Bergen

Geoffrey Evans | Nuffield College, Oxford University

16 December

PLENARY III: THE POLITICS OF SPACE (Chair: Kate McNamara)

14:30 - 16:00 ***The Politics of Isolation: Far-Right Support in Rural Italy***

Catherine De Vries | Bocconi University

Commentaries:

Charlotte Cavallé | University of Michigan

Rahsaan Maxwell | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, WZB Berlin Social Science Centre

16:00 - 16:15 *Break*

PLENARY IV: POLITICAL ECONOMY (Chair: Elisabeth Ivarsflaten)

16:15 - 17:45 ***The ongoing ICT Revolution: From a Neo-Liberal Framework to Second Movements in Advanced Democracies***

Torben Iversen | Harvard University

David Soskice | London School of Economics and Political Science

Commentaries:

Elias Dinas | European University Institute

Guido Tabellini | Bocconi University

17 December

PLENARY V: WORLDVIEW POLITICS (Chair: Liesbet Hooghe)

14:30-16:00 ***Worldview politics in the US and Britain***

Marc Hetherington | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Caroline Lancaster | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Isaac Mehlhaff | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Commentaries:

Hanspeter Kriesi | European University Institute

Ruth Dassonneville | University of Montreal, European University Institute