

Call for Papers for the Seminar
“New Challenges to German Politics and Policy”
Forty-Sixth Annual Conference of the German Studies Association
September 15-18, 2022, Houston, Texas

sponsored by the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies
and the Institute for Parliamentary Research, Berlin

convenors:

Barbara Donovan, Wesleyan College,
Eric Langenbacher, Georgetown University and AICGS,
Sven T. Siefken, IParl, University of Halle and Colorado College

A new chapter in German history begins with the country’s first three-party coalition government since the 1950s, the ‘Ampel’ coalition, emerging from the 2021 elections. This government faces fundamental challenges on many levels. The ongoing struggle over adequate policies for dealing with the pandemic has had major reverberations for the political process and trust in institutions. The new coalition proposes electoral reform and innovation at the federal and local levels to increase transparency and using new tools of political engagement. Difficult choices must be made to bring about a successful ‘green energy’ transition and serious challenges loom in foreign policy, including with respect to European integration, and in relationships with the United States, Russia, and China. The seminar will focus on these challenges, using the new coalition as departure point for considering current developments as well as the long-term evolution of German political institutions and political culture.

Bringing together contributions from various disciplines – political science, sociology, history – the seminar will be held over three days. Participants will give short presentations based on a written paper (minimum 15 pages). The seminar will foster a deeper understanding and enriching discussion to facilitate academic exchange and help establish interdisciplinary personal networks. We invite contributions from scholars at all career stages with diverse backgrounds and methodological approaches.

We specifically invite contributions addressing the following questions:

- Which challenges does Germany's new coalition government face? How do the politics of a three-party coalition affect the process of governance?
- Does a heightened degree of party fragmentation enhance or complicate representation and governance?
- What impact has the COVID pandemic had on federalism and parliamentarism?
- How do decreasing levels of public trust affect politics?
- What reforms to the political process are being tried, and how successful are they?
- What challenges are involved in building a viable policy response to climate change?
- What is Germany's role in the EU on such issues as energy, the rule of law, and democracy?
- How is the new coalition responding to Germany's foreign policy challenges?
- How does the current German experience compare to past eras or with challenges in neighboring European countries?

The call is available [here](#). Please submit your proposal (abstract of maximum 500 words) **by March 14, 2022**: <https://www.thegsa.org/conference/current-conference>

If you have any questions about the seminar, please get in touch with the organizers: Barbara Donovan (bdonovan@wesleyancollege.edu), Eric Langenbacher (elangenbacher@aicgs.org) or Sven T. Siefken (sven.siefken@politik.uni-halle.de).