



PUBLIC LECTURE

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Who Gets What in Coalition Governments? Predictors of Portfolio Allocation in Parliamentary Democracies

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IHS, Stumpergasse 56,
1060 Wien, conference room, 6th floor (SZ VI)

Ministerial portfolios are the most obvious payoffs for parties entering a governing coalition in parliamentary democracies, which renders the bargaining over portfolios an important phase of the government formation process. The question of 'who gets what, and why?' in terms of ministerial remits, has however not yet received much attention by coalition or party scholars. In this paper, we focus on this qualitative aspect of portfolio allocation and systematically evaluate a number of hypotheses that can be drawn from the literature on a new comparative data set. Our main hypothesis is that parties which, in their electoral programmes, emphasize specific themes corresponding to the policy remit of specific cabinet portfolios are more likely to obtain control over these portfolios. The results show that policy saliency is indeed an important predictor of portfolio allocation in post-war Western European parliamentary democracies.

Dr. Hanna Bäck is a Juniorprofessor at the Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (MZES), Germany. Her research is focused on institutions, specifically coalition formation in both national and local government. She has published in a number of journals and has won both the Vincent Wright memorial prize and the Rudolf Wildenmann prize for her work.