

Program (Version February 20, 2026)

INAUGURAL WORKSHOP

Standing Committee for POLITICAL ECONOMY of the Verein für Socialpolitik

March 26-27, 2026

LOCATION

Freie Universität Berlin, Akademischer Senatssaal, Henry-Ford-Bau, Garystr. 35, 14195 Berlin

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

09:30	Registration and Coffee
09:50	Welcome
	Session 1
10:00	Maja Adena (WZB Berlin and TU Berlin) Reading News and Learning from It: A Field Experiment with a Newsfeed App on News Knowledge, Media Trust, and Political Polarization (with Sabrina Jeworrek) Discussant: Arianna Ornaghi (Hertie School)
11:00	Ole Jann (CERGE-EI) Political Debate on Social Media: Theory and Evidence (with Christoph Schottmüller) Discussant: Philipp Denter (UC3M)
12:00	Lunch
	Session 2
13:00	Max Mihm (NYU-Abu Dhabi) How Selection Undermines Trust (with S. Nageeb Ali and Lucas Siga) Discussant: Gabriel Ziegler (Freie Universität Berlin)
14:00	Dana Sisak (Erasmus University Rotterdam) Trust and Policy Capacity – Strategic Bureaucratic Appointments under Electoral Incentives (with Otto Swank) Discussant: Alexander Mayer (Universität Bayreuth)
15:00-17:30	Poster Session
17:30	Alois Stutzer (University of Basel) Direct Democracy and Political Extremism (with Nicolas Schreiner) Discussant: Patrick Hufschmidt (Philipps-Universität Marburg)
19:00	Dinner <i>Alter Krug Dahlem</i> , www.alter-krug-berlin.de , Königin-Luise-Straße 52, 14195 Berlin

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

09:00	Committee Meeting (Members only, not open to the public)
11:00	Coffee
	Session 3
11:30	Vanessa Boese-Schlosser (WZB Berlin) The Economic Consequences of Democratic Backsliding: Evidence from U.S. States (with Rodolphe Desbordes, Markus Eberhardt and Mario Larch) Discussant: Zohal Hessami (Ruhr University Bochum)
12:30	Lunch
	Session 4
13:30	Galina Zudenkova (TU Dortmund) Pocketbooks and Partisan Hooks (with Hélia Costa and Zoë Kuehn) Discussant: Max Steinhardt (FU Berlin)
14:30	Thushyanthan Baskaran (Ruhr University Bochum) Populist policymakers (with Zohal Hessami and Alexander Sohl) Discussant: Cathrin Mohr (Kiel Institute and Universität Hamburg)
15:30	Coffee and Farewell

Each Paper: 45 min presentation – 15 minutes assigned discussion