



INSTITUT FÜR HÖHERE STUDIEN  
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES  
Vienna

## PUBLIC LECTURE

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### "Government Formation in Central and Eastern Europe – the Case of Minority Governments"

Discussant: Wolfgang C. Müller

Tuesday, September 27, 2011, 17.00 pm  
IHS, Stumpergasse 56  
1060 Vienna, Lecture Room SZ VI

#### ABSTRACT

About one third of all governments in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) are minority governments. Characteristic is that they do not control the majority of seats in parliament. At first glance minority governments seem to be a counterintuitive phenomenon. Why should a party decide to stay in opposition, but support a government that has no majority?

Government formation processes in the CEE countries are a rich and up to now widely unexplored area of scientific research. Research on minority governments as well as on government formation in general has so far been mainly focusing on Western (European) countries. Are the influencing factors that are valid for the formation of minority governments in Western Europe such as institutional facts (e.g. investiture votes or an opposition's influence possibilities) or the policy positions of parties (e.g. ideological centrality of the largest party) applicable to the Eastern European context, or do the underlying factors differ due to the different political background? Which combinations of conditions lead to the formation of minority governments in CEE?

The presentation will give an overview of the hypotheses put forward to explain minority governments in Western Europe. It will show to what extent these hypotheses are transferable to the Eastern European context and give insights on how these hypotheses are tested by means of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA).

**Dorothea Keudel-Kaiser** is a PhD student at the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/O, Germany (Chair of European Studies). Before, she was research assistant at the University of Kassel, Dept. of Political Sciences, Politisches System der BRD. Her research focuses on government formation processes in Central and Eastern Europe as well as on the development of party systems and the political systems in CEE in general. Recent publication: Horizontale Gewaltenteilung: Präsidenten, Regierungen und Parlamente In: Florian Grotz and Ferdinand Müller-Rommel (Eds.): Regierungssysteme in Mittel- und Osteuropa. Die neuen EU-Staaten im Vergleich. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag, 2011, 68-85 (together with Timm Beichelt).