



## PUBLIC LECTURE

Holger Döring  
University of Bremen

### **The party political make-up of Europe's institutions** **Explaining the democratic chain of delegation in the EU and introducing ParlGov, a new data infrastructure for comparative politics**

Tuesday, 7 December 2010, 16:30  
IHS, Stumpergasse 56,  
1060 Vienna, Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> floor

How do we understand the party composition of the European Union? Have there been periods of left or right wing dominance in the EU? How similar is the political make-up of the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament? In this lecture, Holger Döring addresses these questions and maps the democratic chain of delegation in the EU to explain its logic of political representation. He shows that moderate left/right parties that support European integration tend to be overrepresented in the Council and the Commission whereas more (left/right) extreme and eurosceptic parties tend to be overrepresented in the European Parliament. These findings are explained by drawing on coalition formation research and work on second-order elections. In addition, Holger Döring, introduces ParlGov a new data infrastructure for empirical information on parties, elections and governments in modern democracies. This infrastructure allows answering a wide range of questions about parties and political institutions in the EU and Western democracies more generally.

**Dr. Holger Döring** is lecturer at the University of Bremen and member of the Centre for Social Policy. Previously, he was a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI) and worked at the University of Konstanz and at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG) in Cologne. His research interests include political institutions, comparative political representation, European politics and innovations in collecting political science data. His work has been published in *Comparative Political Studies* and *European Union Politics*.