



## PUBLIC LECTURE

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## Descriptive and Substantive? Immigrant Politicians and Their Parliamentary Activities in Germany

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IHS, Stumpergasse 56,  
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Parliamentarians of immigrant background are a quite recent phenomenon in Germany's national and state parliaments. The first migrant MP, Sevim Qelebi of the Green-Alternative list, came into Berlin's state parliament as a substitute in 1987. Until 2009, 88 politicians of immigrant background have been elected, and many of them for more than one term. This paper takes a closer look at parliamentarians of immigrant background applying a longitudinal perspective. To what degree do they make use of individual activities open to all parliamentarians? And do they focus on migration-related issues? To what extent and why does individual behaviour change in a second or subsequent parliamentary term? The analyses differentiate between time-invariant factors like immigrant generation or political affiliation, and time-variant factors like belonging to a governing party or holding a position role in parliament.

**Andreas M. Wüst** is Visiting Professor of Comparative Political Behaviour at the University of Mannheim. He has worked on voting behaviour, political parties, migration and survey methodology. He currently holds a fellowship of the VolkswagenStiftung which allows him to study the political representation of immigrants in parliaments in a comparative perspective. His publications include *Wie wählen Neubürger?* (Opladen, 2002), *The Political Representation of Immigrants and Minorities: Voters, Parties and Parliaments in Liberal Democracies* (edited by Bird, Saalfeld and Wüst, London, forthcoming 2010), articles in *German Politics*, *German Politics and Society*, *Politische Vierteljahresschrift*, *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft*, *Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen* and *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte*.