



Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the first newsletter of the newly formed International Association for the Study of German Politics (IASGP)! The IASGP is, as many of you will know, the new organisation that has been created by a merger of the UK Association for the Study of German Politics and the US German Politics Association. The new association brings together scholars from Europe and North America into a single, vibrant academic network and it is with great pleasure that I find myself leading this organisation at such an important and exciting time.

As we all look forward to the start of a new era, I feel – for the benefit of members on both sides of the Atlantic – that it would nonetheless be worthwhile rowing back a little. The UK Association for the Study of German Politics was established in 1974 to promote the study and teaching of German politics, economics and society, in the widest possible context, amongst new and established scholars within the United Kingdom and further afield. Among its co-founders were William Paterson (University of Birmingham), Peter Pulzer (University of Oxford), Geoffrey Roberts (University of Manchester) and Marianne Howarth (Nottingham Trent University).

The US German Politics Association was formerly known as the Conference Group on German Politics. It was founded in 1968 as an independent organisation of scholars devoting a major portion of their professional work to the study of German society and politics. Co-founders of the CGGP included George Romoser (University of New Hampshire) and Charles Foster (U.S. Department of Education), along with Alfred Diamont (Indiana University).

As separate UK and US associations ASGP and GPA provided a framework for at least two ‘successor generations’ of scholars working on German politics to develop their expertise. The newly established IASGP provides a powerful transatlantic platform for exchange and dialogue, the promotion of the study of German politics in European and North American scholarly communities, and for encouraging new generations of researchers on Germany to develop their skills.

The newly formed IASGP ran a number of events at the GSA conference this year in San Diego (see the report later in this newsletter) to raise awareness and get new members involved. The response was very strong indeed and looks set to take the organisation to a new level. This newsletter gives some indication of activities within which the IASGP will be involved for the rest of 2007 and through 2008. Many of these have important deadlines fast approaching, so I would ask you to look through the various calls for papers carefully. The newsletter is also meant to be a vehicle for you, the members, to publicise your own activities – feel free to contact either me or Secretary Dan Hough (d.t.hough@sussex.ac.uk) for more details.

Professor Charlie Jeffery

IASGP Chair



Call for Papers

The 34th Annual IASGP Conference

**German Academic Exchange Service
34 Belgrave Square
London, England
SW1X 8QB
<http://london.daad.de/>**

Tuesday 27th - Wednesday 28th May 2008

The 34th IASGP Annual Conference in the UK will take place at the DAAD's London office, on Tuesday and Wednesday 27th-28th May 2008. It is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to attend and give papers.

The IASGP's Programme Committee welcomes abstracts of no more than 150 words on any aspect of contemporary German politics. The Programme Committee is also keen to encourage IASGP members to submit panel proposals. Areas that members might like to consider presenting papers are German-US relations in the (post-) Bush era, the performance of the Grand Coalition as the 2009 election approaches or Germany in a globalising world. Abstracts should be returned to Dan Hough (d.t.hough@sussex.ac.uk) by 15th January 2008. Should you have any questions, then Dan will also be more than pleased to answer them.

Call for Panel Proposals



American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference

The IASGP has a reserved panel at the annual conference of the American Political Science Association (APSA). APSA profiles itself as the most significant association of political scientists in the world and it is quite an honour to be granted a reserved panel at their annual gathering. The 2008 jamboree will be taking place in Boston from 28th – 31st August. More details about the conference venue and the event itself can be found at http://www.apsanet.org/section_222.cfm

The IASGP's programme committee would like to encourage members to submit possible panel proposals. Panels should include three speakers and a contributor. Given that APSA stresses the importance of attracting sizeable audiences to listen to speakers at the conference, it is also important that panels address 'hard-hitting' topics and this is something to bear in mind when submitting proposals. Panel proposals have to be submitted to the relevant programme convener by 17th December 2007. We would therefore ask members to submit their ideas to IASGP Programme Committee member Jonathan Olsen by 22nd November 2007. The IASGP Programme Committee will convene in the week following this deadline to choose a panel to represent the association at the conference. Should you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to drop Jonathan a line (olsenj@uwp.edu).



IASGP Committee

Election News

The procedures for the forthcoming election to the IASGP executive committee are as follows. Firstly, a reminder of why these elections are actually necessary in the first place.

Six members were co-opted on to the Committee in May 2007. Their tenure in office runs until 31st December 2007. They are the Secretary (Dan Hough), the Treasurer (Carolyn Moore) and Charlie Lees, Emil Kirchner, Nicola Corkin and Ruth Wittlinger as ordinary members of the Executive. The other four committee members (Rosanne Palmer, Jonathan Olsen, Simon Green and Joyce Mushaben) remain in office until December 2008 at which point they too will be required to stand for re-election. We are therefore required to fill the following positions

- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Four committee members**

They will take office from 1st January 2008; the Secretary and Treasurer have terms of office of three calendar years, whilst the members of the Executive will serve for two calendar years.

I would hereby like to open nominations. If we have more nominees than we do positions that need filling then there will be an election. More details on the mechanics of this in due course.

To make it on to any prospective ballot paper a nominee needs to be nominated by one person (and this is not allowed to be themselves). Nominators and nominees need to be paid up members of the IASGP. Nominations need to be returned to the returning officer, Simon Green (s.o.green@bham.ac.uk), before the (extended) deadline of 5pm GMT on 15th November 2007. PLEASE NOTE THAT NOMINATIONS SHOULD NOT BE SENT TO ME! Simon will then approach each of the nominees in order to confirm that they are willing and eligible to stand. Simon will inform everyone of the results/relevant election procedures within one week of nominations closing.

I hope that that is all clear. If you have any questions (ALTHOUGH NOT NOMINATIONS!) please don't hesitate to let me know.

Dan Hough, IASGP Secretary

German Studies Association

GSA Conference Report 2007

The 2007 German Studies Association (GSA) conference was billed as the biggest and best ever. As in 2002, the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego (<http://www.towncountry.com/>) provided the venue and, also as in 2002, the attractions of southern California ensured an impressive turnout of participants. There were 287 panels and over 800 speakers, with a wide and varied subject matter being covered.

The IASGP's predecessors, the ASGP and the Conference Group on German Politics, have traditionally had impressive turnouts at GSA conferences. American, British and German members have all made concerted attempts to attend. 2007 was no different. Yet this time the IASGP was still more visible than it had ever been before. Firstly, association chair Charlie Jeffery was asked to give one of the prestigious luncheon speeches. Professor Jeffery discussed not just Germany's ever-changing role in the European Union – a topic that he, along with Simon Bulmer and Willie Paterson, will be discussing in more detail in their forthcoming second edition of 'Germany's European Diplomacy' – but also the IASGP's role in studying it. Professor Jeffery stressed the importance of making the most of new trans-Atlantic synergies in the political science community and also of using the GSA as a forum for disseminating research. Finally Professor Jeffery also skilfully managed to mention England's defeat of Australia in the rugby world cup that had taken place hours earlier. No mean feat given the topic of his talk ... !

The second major event also involved food and drink, although this time in the form of a reception in the delightful Rose Garden. Routledge, the publishers of *German Politics*, generously funded what was an exceptionally well attended event. The IASGP's Honorary President, Professor Jackson Janes, standing John Major-style on a chair that looked suspiciously like a soapbox, spoke of the importance of working together, moving forward and continuing to critically analyse events in Germany and Germany's place in the modern world.

Members of the association also gave papers on a wide variety of subjects and issues. Lothar Probst chaired a thought-provoking panel on parties and representative politics that involved Melanie Kintz talking about roles that eastern Germans take on in the Bundestag, Barbara Donovan discussing regionalism in eastern Germany and Heinrich Bortfeldt discussing the future of the Left Party. This theme continued in another panel devoted exclusively to Germany's newest political party involving Jonathan Olsen, Dan Hough, David Patton and Meredith Heiser-Duron. Simon Green, Graham Timmins, Wade Jacoby and Emil Kirchner were heavily involved in panels analysing policy convergence between Germany and other European states, whilst Willie Paterson led a panel analysing the Federal Republic's European Policy and the recently concluded German presidency of the EU. In total Over 25 IASGP members presented the fruits of their research in San Diego in what was a hugely successful conference for the association.



IASGP members at the 2007 GSA Conference in San Diego

IASGP Chair, Charlie Jeffery, and IASGP Honorary President, Jackson Janes at the IASGP's reception in the Rose Garden



IASGP Members Charlie Lees, Willie and Phyllis Paterson and Graham Timmins enjoying a glass of wine in the Rose Garden



Further Dates for your Diary

The following may be of interest – please see the links included for more details ...



european consortium for political research



2008 Joint Sessions of Workshops

Department of Political Science, University of Rennes, France

Friday 11th - Wednesday 16th April 2008

Co-ordinator of the Local Organising Committee: Eric Neveu, Director,
IEP Rennes

The workshops for the 2008 ECPR Joint Sessions have now been confirmed. For more information on the workshops, see

<http://www.ecpr.org.uk/rennes/index.html>

The deadline for applications to participate in workshops is 1 December 2007.



Congratulations to ...

IASGP Chair Professor Charlie Jeffery was recently awarded the Political Studies Association of the UK's Communication Award at the Institute of Directors for his work in directing the ESRC's Devolution and Constitutional Change Programme.

The Judges observed that “Charlie Jeffery’s ESRC Devolution and Constitutional Change programme was a model of how to conduct a large budget, high profile project. In terms of theoretical development, empirical research, dissemination and user relevance, the Devolution and Constitutional Change programme was exemplary. From 2000 to 2006, 35 research projects produced a range of interesting and cogent findings, consolidating our understanding of the asymmetrical nature of UK devolution, the impact upon governance, the (lack of) impact of the weakening of British identity and the prospects for the future of the Union in a restructured UK. None of this would have been possible without the strategic vision, academic insight and organisational efficiency of the programme director.”

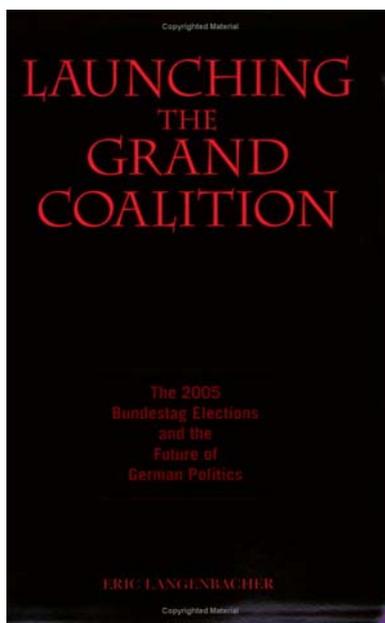
Well done Charlie!

IASGP Chair Charlie Jeffery accepting his award from the Guardian's Polly Toynbee



Recent Publications by IASGP Members

Berghahn Books
Oxford · New York



LAUNCHING THE GRAND COALITION **The 2005 Bundestag Election and the Future of German Politics**

Edited by **Eric Langenbacher**

160 pages, index, bibliog.
ISBN 978-1-84545-283-4 Pb **\$22.50**

This edited volume, which brings together the leading experts in German politics from around the US and Germany, combines rich descriptive data with insightful analyses regarding one of the most dramatic and important election years in post-war Germany. A variety of more specialised issues and perspectives is addressed, including the transatlantic relationship, EU policy, voting behaviour and far-right parties. This book will be essential reading for students of German, European and comparative politics.

Eric Langenbacher is a Visiting Assistant Professor and Director of Special Programs in the Department of Government, Georgetown University, where he teaches courses on comparative politics and political culture.

For further information see

<http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=LangenbacherLaunching>

Recent Publications by IASGP Members

Die Linkspartei: Zeitgemäße Idee oder Bündnis ohne Zukunft?

Tim Spier et. al.

Wiesbaden: Vs Verlag 2007; Pb 978-3-531-14941-7 €26.90

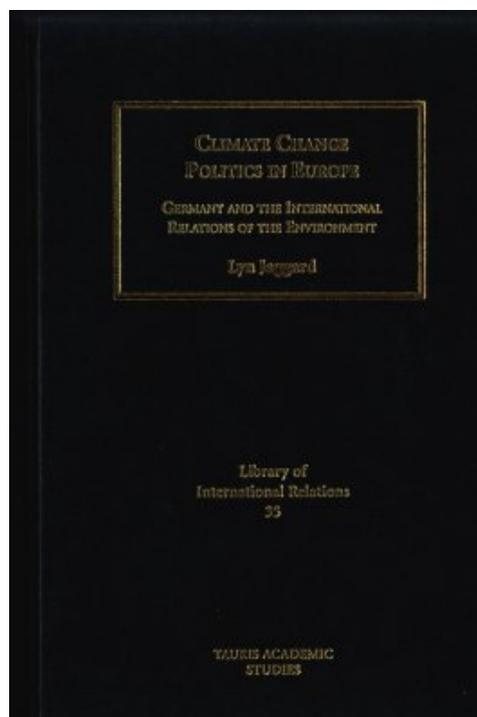


Seit Herbst 2005 gibt es mit der Linkspartei – erstmals in der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik – eine Allianz von west- und ostdeutschen Kräften links von der Sozialdemokratie im Bundestag. Trotz des beachtlichen Wahlergebnisses von 8,7 % werden erst die nächsten Jahre zeigen, ob der Zusammenschluss von PDS und WASG eine tragfähige Basis für eine eigene Partei sein kann oder doch nur ein Bündnis auf Zeit bleibt. Der Sammelband wirft einen Blick auf die gesellschaftlichen Entstehungshintergründe des Linksbündnisses, lässt den vergangenen Bundestagswahlkampf Revue passieren, analysiert Mitgliedschaft, Führungspersonal sowie Wählerschaft und versucht auszuloten, wie die Chancen für eine formale Vereinigung beider Parteien stehen.

Climate Change Politics in Europe: Germany and the International Relations of the Environment

Lyn Jaggard

London: I B Tauris, 2007; Hb 978-1-8451-1409-1, £47.50



In the 21st century the climate change debate is increasingly moving up many agendas. In this topical book Lyn Jaggard evaluates the role of ideas in the evolution of the politics of climate change. She investigates the evolution of climate change policy in the European Union and specifically Germany's role in the international relations of climate change. Jaggard argues that Germany's federal system has facilitated the political mainstreaming of popular environmental concerns which has led to the development of effective environmental domestic and foreign policy-making, influencing both European and wider climate change policy.

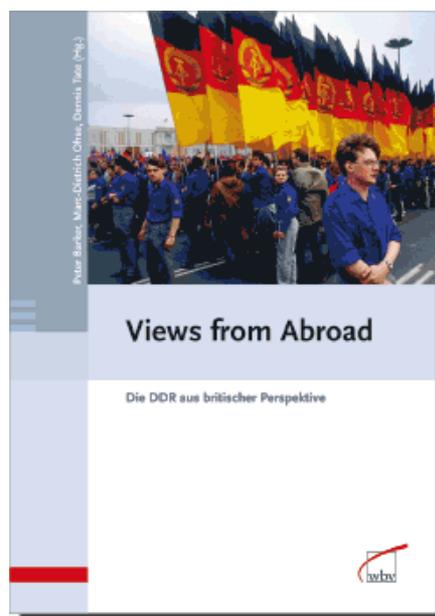
Lyn Jaggard is a visiting researcher at the University of Birmingham studying climate change related politics and international relations. She has lectured at Oxford Brookes University and at the University of Greenwich.

Recent Publications by IASGP Members

Views from Abroad - Die DDR aus britischer Perspektive

Peter Barker, Marc-Dietrich Ohse, Dennis Tate (eds.)

Bielefeld: Bertelsmann Verlag, 2007; Hb 978-3-7639-3569-7, €19.90



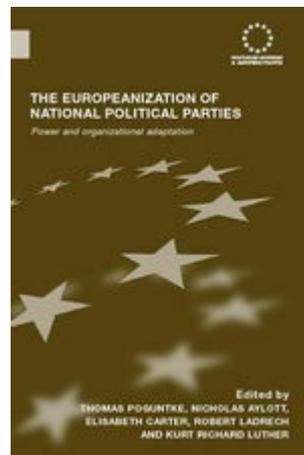
Aus der Perspektive des Auslands ist eine unbefangene Sicht auf die Geschichte des “anderen” deutschen Staates möglich. Wie diese Studien britischer Historiker zeigen, die das Ergebnis einer Tagung an der University of Reading im Sommer 2006 sind. Die Beiträge dieses Bandes vermitteln einen Eindruck vom aktuellen Forschungsstand der britischen Geschichtswissenschaft zur Zeitgeschichte. Methodisch basieren diese mehrheitlich auf den interdisziplinär ausgerichteten Ansätzen der Cultural Studies

Recent Publications by IASGP Members

The Europeanization of National Political Parties: Power and Organizational Adaptation

Thomas Poguntke, Nicholas Aylott, Elisabeth Carter, Robert Ladrech, Kurt Richard Luther

London: Routledge, 2007; Hb 978-0-415-40191-3 £65.00



This is a detailed exploration of how national political parties have responded to the increasing relevance of European governance.

The Europeanization of National Political Parties is the first empirical study to examine the effects of the European Union on the internal organisational dynamics of national political parties. It draws on the results of a major, cross-national project and is based on documentary analysis and some 150 interviews with senior party actors in six EU member states: Austria, Britain, France, Germany, Spain and Sweden.

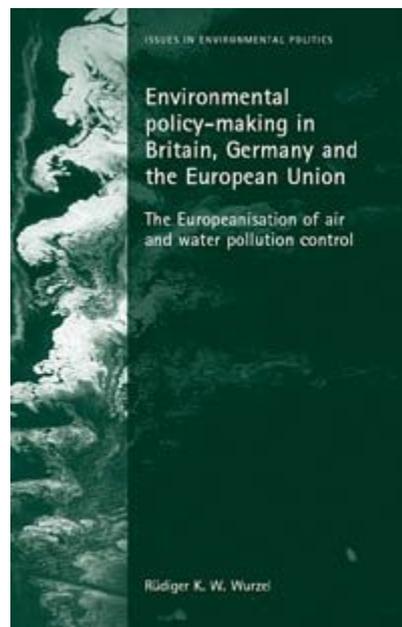
Situated in the context of the debate on Europeanisation, the contributors illustrate that national political parties have been surprisingly well equipped to handle the challenges of the increasing importance of multi-level governance in Europe. Following a rigorous analytical framework, the country studies examine thirty relevant political parties and systematically address a clearly defined set of empirical questions. The volume ends with two comparative chapters that analyse the findings from a cross-national perspective and that offer theoretical insights into the problems of party government amid increasing European integration.

Recent Publications by IASGP Members

Environmental Policy-Making in Britain, Germany and the European Union

Rüdiger Wurzel

Manchester: MUP, 2006; Pb 978-0-719-07334-2: £16.99



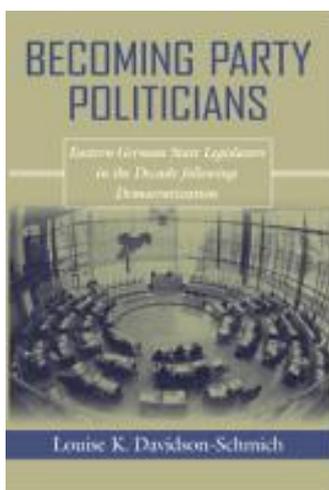
European environmental policy has become an increasingly important area of EU policy-making and the source of political conflict between Britain and Germany. This book explains why national conflicts have arisen and how they are resolved at the EU level. It focuses on two very important and media exploitable issues; car emissions and bathing water regulation. The empirical findings are based on unpublished material and more than one hundred interviews with former government ministers, EU Commissioners, senior officials, Members of the European Parliament as well as industry and NGO representatives. It is the first book length study to be published in English focusing on British, German and EU environmental policy. It explains why national conflicts have arisen and how they are resolved at EU level by focusing on the Europeanisation of air and water pollution control.

Recent Publications by IASGP Members

Becoming Party Politicians *Eastern German State Legislators in the Decade* *Following Democratization*

Louise Davidson-Schmich

Chicago: Notre Dame, 2006; Pb 978-0-268-02585-3 \$27.50



After the Berlin Wall fell, scholars flocked to eastern Europe to conduct extensive opinion research on citizens' political attitudes and values. In eastern Germany, new post-communist political elites' political attitudes and values were found to differ considerably from western German politicians'; these differences were expected to be hurdles to democratization. Yet only limited research has been done to determine whether eastern German politicians' attitudes and values actually influenced their actions. *Becoming Party Politicians* fills this empirical void by comparing eastern and western German state legislators in the decade following unification. The book finds little evidence to suggest that the political attitudes and values of eastern parliamentarians have hindered their adaptation to united Germany's political system.

Davidson-Schmich's conclusions, based on personal interviews with state legislators and analysis of parliamentary debates between 1990 and 2002, not only shed light on German politics and the sources of legislator behavior; they also contribute to broader debates involving both the ability of western European political institutions to survive societal change and the influence of political institutions on the consolidation of democracy in post-communist settings.

Recent Publications by IASGP Members

The Left Party in Contemporary German Politics

Dan Hough, Michael Koß and Jonathan Olsen

Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2007; Hb 978-0-230-01907-2 £50.00



The Left Party is Germany's newest political party. It grew out of the predominantly eastern German PDS and the largely western German WASG. It is the first party in Germany's history to stabilise itself as a serious competitor to the left of Germany's Social Democrats. Its organisational resilience and its strong electoral performances would therefore indicate that it will be here to stay for a while to come.

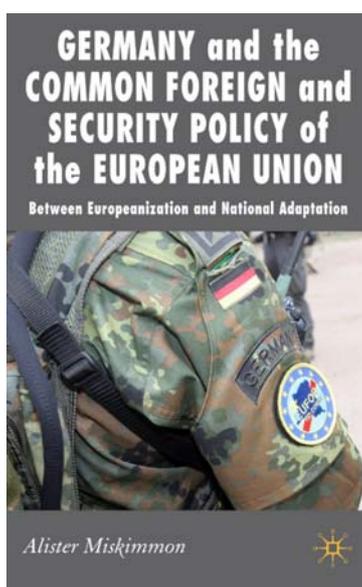
This book analyses how the Left Party came into existence, why it has been successful and where it is likely to go – in programmatic, strategic and electoral terms – from here. It compares the Left Party's political development with that of post-war Germany's other most famous outsider-turned-insider party, the Greens, and it also analyses the Left Party's performances in sub-national governments. It therefore contributes to wider debates on how, when and why parties 'de-radicalise' as they become more embedded in a political system.

Recent Publications by IASGP Members

Germany and the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union

Alister Miskimmon

Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2007; Hb 978-0-230-50652-7 £50.00



This book examines Germany's role in the development of the common foreign and security policy of the European Union. It examines Germany and the EU's development from regional actors to global players in the twenty-first century.

Contents

- Introduction
- Germany, the European Community and the Challenges of the End of the Cold War
- Reforming the Common Foreign and Security Policy
- Learning to Lead: Germany, Kosovo and the Development of the Common European Security and Defence Policy
- No Longer a 'Reluctant Power'? Germany's Emergent Leadership Role in ESDP
- Conclusion: Between Europeanization and National Singularities

Author Biography

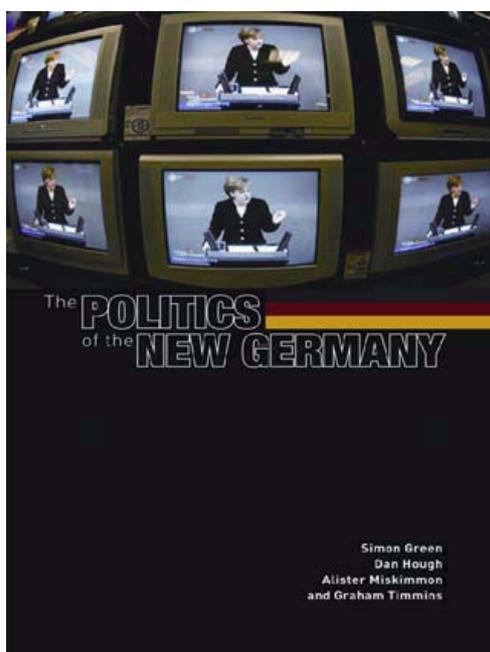
ALISTER MISKIMMON is Lecturer in European Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway, University of London, UK where he is also Director of European Studies. His research interests include German and EU foreign and security policy.

Recent Publications by IASGP Members

The Politics of the New Germany

**Simon Green, Dan Hough, Alister Miskimmon
and Graham Timmins**

London: Routledge, 2007; Pb 978-0-415-35366-3: **£19.99**



This is the first new undergraduate textbook on German politics for almost five years. It has been explicitly written in a straightforward and accessible style so as to appeal not only to politics and European Studies students, but also to students of German Studies. It assumes no prior knowledge of German history or political structures and its analysis is led by issues, not structures. By focusing on themes and debates, the book illustrates institutional and policy challenges, identifying three recurrent themes: reconciliation, consensus and transformation. In doing so, the book therefore provides a rich and nuanced overview of factors which drive German politics, teasing out the challenges, such as the fiscal crisis of the state, which will determine the government's agenda no matter what its party political complexion.

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Other News



The bright-eyed and bushy tailed amongst you will have noticed that the IASGP has a new logo (above). Over the last twelve months the executive committee has been working closely with Taylor and Francis in producing a new logo to go with the merger of the ASGP and Conference Group on German Politics and to coincide with the launch of the new IASGP website. We hope you like it.

The new website can be located at

<http://www.iasgp.org/>

Taylor and Francis have offered us generous support in getting the site off the ground; it will, however, only be a useful resource if the membership makes genuine use of it. There will be copies of some *German Politics* articles (available to members only) as well as all the latest news and views on events that are going on. This will include publication alerts, news of graduate activities, past newsletters, conference details and so forth.

In due course we will be informing you all of the process of logging into the members section. It will be very straightforward. In this area you'll be able, in the future, to access a membership directory as well as to vote in elections and make use of the IASGP blog (more of which, again, via email when this is up and running).

We hope you like what you see. If you don't, please let either Dan Hough (d.t.hough@sussex.ac.uk), Carolyn Moore (c.s.moore@bham.ac.uk) or Lindsay Adams (IASGP co-ordinator - lindsay.adams@blueyonder.co.uk) know. Should you have anything at all to contribute in terms of content then PLEASE forward it on. We really are all ears ...