

Call for Papers:

Political-military relations and the survival of autocratic rule

Panel on the 2015 Biennial Conference of the IUS on Armed Forces and Society

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Control of the military by the political leadership is a crucial prerequisite for the stability and survival of any political regime. However, in authoritarian regimes this *problematique* is particularly critical, as it poses a double challenge for regime leaders: Due to the high vulnerability of regime security to horizontal and vertical challenges, all autocracies must guarantee their military's continuous willingness to defend the regime against internal and external challenges. At the same time, the military poses a constant threat to the survival of the dictator. How dictators handle this double challenge, however, has thus far been only inadequately theorized or analyzed from a comparative perspective, and we do not really know how autocrats ensure the military's cooperation – or how exactly they fail to do so.

This panel brings together conceptual, theoretical and empirical work on the relationship between the political and the military elite in non-democratic regimes and its effect on the political survival of autocratic rulers. It addresses three general questions:

1. How do dictators attempt to address the double challenge posed by their militaries?
2. Can we classify different types of political-military relations in autocracies?
3. What is the effect of different types of political-military relations on the political survival of dictators or their regimes?

For putting together a panel at the 2015 conference of the *Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society (IUS)*, we are interested in receiving paper proposals that address these questions from a wide range of analytical, theoretical and methodological perspectives. The panel is open for both, theoretical and empirical contributions. Theoretical work should present and systematically elaborate an original theoretical argument to make sense on one or more of the three questions guiding this panel. Empirical papers will combine strong theoretical reasoning with rigorous and methodologically

sound analyses, and should be comparative. Single-country studies that include explicit comparative perspectives and a strong theoretical framework are also welcome.

Paper proposals (max. 500 words) should be sent to David Kuehn (david.kuehn@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de) and Aurel Croissant (aurel.croissant@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de) by 15 December 2014. We will decide on the program by 31 December 2014.

Sadly, we will not be able to provide any funding.

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