



**Universität Stuttgart**

Institut für Sozialwissenschaften

Abteilung SOWI II Prof. Dr. André Bächtiger

## **Party system polarization and individual perceptions of party differences: Two divergent effects on turnout**

*We show that party system polarization and subjective perceptions of ideological party differences are conceptually and empirically distinct phenomena which impact differently on individual electoral participation. Party polarization understood as a system trait, depresses turnout because many potential voters are put off by extreme party positions.*

*By contrast, the individual ability to perceive differences between political parties increases turnout because more citizens find a party which is close to their own ideological position and other parties which are far away from a voter's ideological position. The weak and partly contradictory findings typical for previous research on polarization's impact on turnout are due to a conceptual and empirical blurring of two essentially different aspects: party system polarization that depresses turnout among citizens with moderate views and non-partisans and individual perceptions of party differences which increase electoral participation among all types of citizens alike.*

# **Prof. Sigrid Roßteutscher**

## **Universität Frankfurt**

**Montag, 28. Januar 2019**

**17:30 – 19:00 Uhr,  
Breitscheidstraße 2, Raum M 2.31**

**Alle sind herzlich eingeladen!**