



# **German Politics after the Federal Election in 2017** **Is the Political System becoming unstable?**

**Lecture by Dr. Roger Stoecker, University of Magdeburg, Germany**

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018 — 12:00 PM—1:30 PM | FIU—MMC | SASC 302**

Since the 1990s the German party system is one of the most stable political systems in Europe (Gordon Smith 1996, p. 221). But in these days it seems to erode. After the rise of the Left Party in the early nineties and some appearances of right-wing parties, a new right-wing populist party, the AfD (Alternative for Germany), ascended to a political player in the last couple of years. The federal election in September 2017 plunged the political system of Germany into a never seen chaos. Since then, the party system has changed. The two dominant parties, the Christian Democrats (CDU) with its leader Angela Merkel as well as the Social Democrats, lost many votes and smaller parties became more powerful. Before March 2018, the most powerful country of Europe was ruled by a transitional government for six months. Only then a new government was formed.

Firstly, the lecturer is going to give a small introduction to the political and the voting system of Germany. Afterwards, he will show the reasons for the change of the party system as well as for the complicated government formation process. Moreover, he is going to point out the mistakes the Peoples Parties (Volksparteien) have made in their election campaigns. Finally, the lecturer will offer an answer to the question if Germany's political system has permanently changed.



**Dr. Roger Stoecker** has studied economic education, political science and history. He has written his dissertation about "The Party System of Saxony-Anhalt". Since 2012 Dr. Stoecker is a lecturer for political science at the Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg. In addition to his scientific work, Stoecker works as a political consultant and election worker.

RSVP by April 16<sup>th</sup> to Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at [calyc@fiu.edu](mailto:calyc@fiu.edu)

**Open and free to all FIU Students | Funded by CSO**

Co-Sponsored by the European & Eurasian Studies Program, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU Politics & International Relations Department, the European Student Association.