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Ausschreibung von Vorträgen im Rahmen des Panels

**“Political Literacy and the Resistibility of Liberal Democracy”**

Veranstalter/innen des Panels (Chairs)

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Abstract:

Liberal democracy is under attack from within. Political scientists discuss these attacks as symptoms of “democratic backsliding” and “democratic *deconsolidation*”. Remarkably, the acts of eroding liberal democracy are justified by the claim of recovering the power of the people. In other words, the disdain for liberal democracy is pushed on behalf of the people. Thus, the question arises: Does “the people” really understand what is going on in its name? This question is in line with a long tradition of political thinking about the subjective underpinnings of democratic rule. One branch of research has been focused on the citizens’ cognitive requirements and their political knowledge, in particular. Other researchers speak of citizens’ „political literacy“, even though in a vague manner and ambiguous way.

Referring to Giovanni Sartori, we argue that political literacy is more than the technical knowledge about how political institutions work and who is in power right now. We furthermore believe that political literacy is quite different from political knowledge. Whereas the latter can be described as a *resource*, the former is better defined as a combination of *skills*. The resistibility of liberal democracy, so our argument goes, depends on citizens’ political literacy rather than their political knowledge. In order to substantiate this argument, we need to clarify the concept of “political literacy”, validate its significance and empirically analyze its impact on mass political attitudes and behavior. Accordingly, the panel welcomes theoretical and empirical contributions on political literacy and its importance for hard-wearing liberal democracies.

The EC of the German Political Science Association as well as the Panel Chairs encourage young scholars to propose a paper. Furthermore, contributions of female colleagues are mostly welcome.

Paper proposals may be written in English or German and should not exceed 300 words. Please send your paper proposal until **January 31 2018** to the Panel Chairs:

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