

Workshop Programme

Promises Under Pressure? The Role of Pledges in a Changing Political Landscape

 10–11 July 2025 |  University of Göttingen

General Information

Organizer: Theres Matthieß (University of Göttingen)

Co-Organizer: Robert Thomson (University of Hong Kong)

Location: Hannah-Vogt-Saal, Alte Mensa (Wilhelmsplatz 3, 37073 Göttingen)

Schedule

Thursday, 10 July 2025

09:00-12:00: Optional social activities: walk in the old city, small group or bilateral meetings

13:00-13:45: Arrival & Registration

13:45-14:00: **Welcome & Introduction**

14:00-15:30: **Panel I: Coalition Politics and Pledge Fulfilment**

Chair: Felicia Riethmüller/Robin Rentrop

- More Than a Seat at the Table: The Impact of Keeping General and Party Salient Portfolio on Party Pledge Fulfilment — Petra Vodová (*Discussant: Robert Thomson*)
- Pledge Fulfilment in Finland: The Role of Coalition Agreements — Juha Ylisalo (co-authors: Sakari Nieminen, Kimmo Makkonen) (*Discussant: Robert Thomson*)
- Do Greek Political Parties Keep Their Promises? Election Pledges and Policy Implementation Linkage in and out of Bailout Programs, 2015–2023 — Constantinos Saravakos (co-author: Ioannis Konstantinidis) (*Discussant: Annika Werner*)

15:30-16:00: Coffee Break

16:00–18:00: Panel II: Navigating Promissory Representation in a Globalized, Mediatized, and (Un-)competitive Political Landscape

Chair: Elisa Deiss-Helbig

- Big Promises, Big Letdowns? The Fate of Salient Election Pledges — Alexandre Fortier-Chouinard & Benjamin Carignan (co-authors: Étienne Proulx, Yannick Dufresne, Shannon Dinan) (*Discussant: Sakari Nieminen*)
- Promissory Representation in a Dominant Party System — Fraser McMillan (co-authors: Christian Arnold, Daks Dewgun, Jac Larner) (*Discussant: Constantinos Saravakos*)
- Democratic Representation in a Globalized World — Robert Thomson (co-author: Christina Schneider) (*Discussant: Juha Ylisalo*)
- Promise-keeping through a partisan lens: An analysis of perceptions of accountability and Donald Trump's Promises — Tabitha Bonilla (*Discussant: Juha Ylisalo*)

18:00-18:15: Short Break

18:15-19:00: **Discussion about joint publications, project applications, etc.**

19:30: Workshop Dinner @ Kartoffelhaus, Goethe-Allee 8 (sponsored by University of Hong Kong)

Friday, 11 July 2025

09:00-10:30: Panel III: Targeting and Ambiguity in Pledge-Making/Fulfilment and Voter Reactions

Chairs: Xiomara Alvarez & Merle Tetenborg

- Online: The Role of Electoral Pledges in Political Marketing: Observations of Targeting Strategies in Canadian Elections — Lisa Birch (co-author: Dominic Duval) (*Discussant: Katrin Praprotnik*)
- Does Going Narrow Pay Off ? The Electoral Trade-Offs of Pledge Targeting — Elisa Deiss-Helbig (co-authors: Isabelle Guinaudeau, Theres Matthieß) (*Discussant: Annika Werner*)
- Linguistic Vagueness of Electoral Pledges and Its Implications for Electoral Pledge Analysis — Sakari Nieminen (*Discussant: Petra Vodová*)

10:30-11:00: Coffee Break

11:00–13:00: Panel IV: Voter Perceptions of Election Pledges

Chairs: Emma Lange & Wiebke Stein

- Election Pledge Recall, Blame Attribution and Vote Choice — Fraser McMillan (*Discussant: Alexandre Fortier-Chouinard*)
- Correcting Misperceptions: The Impact of Coalition Performance Information on Citizen Attitudes and Voting Behavior — Theres Matthieß (co-author: Heike Klüver) (*Discussant: Alexandre Fortier-Chouinard*)
- Acceptability of Pledge Breaking: Do Pledge Characteristics Matter? — Annika Werner (co-authors: Marija Taflaga, Patrick Dumont, et al.) (*Discussant: Tabitha Bonilla*)
- The Effect of Heterogeneous vs. Homogeneous Election Pledges on Immigration Policies on Voting Behaviour in France and Germany — Evelyn Bytzek (co-authors: Natalia Bogado, Eva Louvet, Cécile Gaubert, Melanie C. Steffens) (*Discussant: Tabitha Bonilla*)

13:00-13:15: Concluding Remarks

13:15-14:30: Lunch at the venue