

# Political Science

## Winter Term 2024

### Mike Cowburn

European University Viadrina

**Book presentation:**

*"Party Transformation in Congressional Primaries: Faction and Ideology in the Twenty-first Century"*



Cowburn analyzes how the process of congressional candidacy has undergone a fundamental transformation in the twenty-first century, with significant implications for the polarization of political parties in Congress. While primaries are commonly believed to contribute to polarization due to voter influence, the book demonstrates that it is, in fact, the nomination process itself that intensifies polarization. This occurs primarily through the influence of party elites, who create incentives for candidates to adopt more ideologically extreme positions.

Mike Cowburn is a Postdoctoral Researcher of Digital Democracy at the European University Viadrina. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from the Freie Universität Berlin in 2022. His research interests include intra-party factions, candidate nomination systems, and political communication. This is his first book, which was published in October of 2024 by Cambridge University Press.

**Tuesday, November 26**

6 - 8 pm in R340

At the John F. Kennedy Institute  
Lansstraße 7-9, 14195 Berlin