



LUDWIG-  
MAXIMILIANS-  
UNIVERSITÄT  
MÜNCHEN

MUNICH CENTER ON  
GOVERNANCE, COMMUNICATION, PUBLIC POLICY AND LAW

MCG



## **Workshop:**

### **Phasing-out and Phasing-in: The Comparative Politics and Policies of Nuclear Energy in Europe**

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This is the third of a series of workshops focusing on the comparative politics and policies of nuclear energy in (Western) Europe. This book project explores the linkages between public policy reversals, public opinion, and the electoral strategies of party elites in (so far: Western) European countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland).

Competitiveness and growth of the European economy depend critically on the supply of cost-efficient energy. Recent developments have spectacularly highlighted the vulnerability of the European economy with regard to the energy question. Second, due to concerns about global warming, non-fossil, renewable energy is required. Against this background, the issue of nuclear energy is back on the political stage - after many countries had abandoned its use since the 1970s. However, public saliencies and voter reactions differ over countries. Thus, we assess the strategic decisions of partisan leaders as they attempt to win elections, form coalitions, and govern. We link partisan strategies with public opinion dynamics and with concrete policy choices in order to contribute to a comparative theory of policy agendas.

The project is directed by Wolfgang C. Müller (Vienna) and Paul W. Thurner (Munich) and financed by Thyssen Foundation. Further participants are: Marc Swyngedouw (Leuven), Sylvain Brouard & Isabelle Guinaudeau (Bordeaux), Fabio Franchino (Milano), Kees Aarts (Twente), Ignacio Molina & Alberto Sanz (Madrid), Sören Holmberg & Per Hedberg (Göteborg), Hanspeter Kriesi (Zurich).