

From the Editors

After having devoted space in the last few open issues of *German Politics and Society* to excellent articles focusing on topics of culture and micropolitics, we feature in this issue three articles solidly anchored in macropolitics. In our lead article, Michaela Richter offers an insightful analysis of Germany's first red-green coalition on the federal level. In her contribution, Richter argues that the informal codes of politics are at least as important as the formal ones in defining the contours of this coalition, just like those of any other in Germany or elsewhere in liberal democracies. By following this argument throughout her article and substantiating it with solid empirical evidence, Richter offers a persuasive case that such mechanisms create an established core of political discourse that antiestablishment parties like the Greens may not like to hear, but certainly are compelled to follow in their political practice.

In a fascinating piece, Mark Spicka sheds important light on a woefully underresearched aspect of the early years of the Bonn Republic: the use of public opinion polling and modern political advertising—two novel methods at the time—by the major parties in the 1950s. In particular, Spicka focuses on the efforts to improve campaigning techniques in the all-important realm of economics, issues of which have decided virtually every single election in the Federal Republic, again congruent with the behavior of most liberal democracies.

Lastly, Pamela Fisher tackles one of the most widely discussed but often misunderstood and misrepresented topics of German unification: the role of feminism in the former German Democratic Republic, especially in the Party of Democratic Socialism. Framing her analysis in the context of the well-known poles of “equality” feminism on the one end and “difference” feminism on the other, Fisher offers some unexpected empirical insights, which lead her to some very original conceptual conclusions.

We are also pleased to present five review essays in this issue. Eric Langenbacher reviews four books dealing with Germany's Nazi

past. Rachel Greenwald follows with an analysis of two books on antisemitism and the Shoah in Germany and beyond. Brett Wheeler's review essay discusses two books on Weimar culture. Thomas Baylis analyzes two books featuring German unification and the creation of the citizen movements in the former East Germany, respectively. And lastly, Alexandra Cole examines two books on the German election of 1998 and the red-green coalition. Three book reviews conclude this issue of *German Politics and Society*.