

## **Party Over Pocketbook:**

### **Can Political Parties Lead Citizens to Go Against their Self-Interest?**

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**Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> 2019, 5:00 p.m.**

**Hörsaal 10, Rathausstraße 19, 1010 Vienna**

*Abstract:*

Two major theoretical perspectives on political behavior propose that citizens' political opinions are shaped by their material self-interest and by the policy positions taken by their preferred political party, respectively.

However, these perspectives have rarely been brought together in the same study. Hence, we know little about the limits of parties' influence on opinion when self-interest is at stake.

Do citizens follow their party, even when the party's policy contradicts their economic self-interest? This talk presents results from two experimental studies designed to explore the interaction between party influence and self-interest in public opinion formation. The first study was conducted at the peak of a conflict over Danish public employees' collective bargaining in spring 2018 where the major political parties took the public employers' side of the conflict. The second study is a field experiment on a property tax reform in Denmark conducted in fall 2019 to disentangle the influence of policy consequences and political responsibility.

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