Course objectives

Economic nationalism has for long been one of the standard approaches in international political economy scholarship. Recently, however, criticism has been voiced with regard to the traditional analytical focus on state policy, and the concomitant equation of economic nationalism with protectionism. The argument has been made that economic nationalism needs to be understood as a world view, which is compatible with varying sets of policies, including free trade. This course will look at the phenomenon of economic nationalism from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective with a view to assess the merits and drawbacks of the different theoretical approaches advanced by economists, political scientists and scholars of nationalism. The course will also address the question whether the contemporary age of globalization spells the end of economic nationalism. Are calls for ‘economic patriotism’ today just hopeless rearguard battles of nationalists, or are they part of the complex, and contradictory process of globalization? What is the relationship between economic nationalism and international economic integration?

Through engagement with these debates students will gain a better understanding of the multi-faceted nature of economic nationalism. By the end of the course students will be able to:

1) identify and critically assess the most important theoretical approaches to the study of economic nationalism
2) develop a critical understanding of how economic nationalism is expressed in different realms of economic life
3) critically reflect about the relationship between globalization and economic nationalism

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and active participation (20 %)
2. Presentation (15 %)
3. Two short essays (800-900 words) on course readings (25 %)
4. Final paper (40%)
Course Outline and Readings

PART I: Conceptual approaches

Seminar 1: Economic nationalism and the realist school of IPE


Seminar 2: International Political Economy (II): Liberal and Marxist views of economic nationalism


Seminar 3: Recent conceptual debates in IPE


Seminar 4: Nationalism studies: Brief introduction


Seminar 5: Economic processes in ‘classic’ nationalism studies


Seminar 6: Recent conceptual approaches to economy in nationalism studies

PART II: Nationalist ideology and politics: The economic dimension

Seminar 7: Nationalist ideology and socio-economic development

Friedrich List, ‘The National System of Political Economy’ (1841), extracts from chapters 11 and 12

Seminar 8: Nationalist ideology and international/regional economic integration


Seminar 9: Nationalist ideology and control of ‘strategic’ economic assets


Seminar 10: Nationalist ideology, ‘strategic’ control, and foreign ownership


Seminar 11: Nationalist ideology and currency regimes


Seminar 12: Nationalist ideology and consumption politics


**Seminar 13:** Nationalist ideology and consumption politics (cont.)


**Seminar 14:** Nationalist ideology and welfare policies


**PART III: Economic dimensions of nationalist movements**

**Seminar 15:** Nationalist movements and economic development


**Seminar 16:** Nationalist movements and economic development (cont.)


**Seminar 17:** Beyond development – economic agendas of nationalist movements in historical perspective

Seminar 18: Beyond development – economic agendas of nationalist movements in contemporary perspective

Daniel Beland and Andre Lecours, ‘The Politics of Territorial Solidarity: Nationalism and Social Policy Reform in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Belgium, Comparative Political Studies, 38 (6), 2005, pp. 676-703

PART IV: Economic dimensions of ‘banal’ nationalism

Seminar 19: Imagined national economic cultures


Seminar 20: Banal nationalism and consumption


Seminar 21: Banal nationalism and consumption (cont.)


Seminar 22: Banal nationalism in economic homeland-diaspora relations

Seminar 23: Banal nationalism and socio-economic redistribution


Seminar 24: Conclusions: Towards European economic patriotism?