

Abstract
Power Elites and State Reforms in Germany

Since the fall of 2005, the second Grand Coalition, an alliance between the Christian Democratic (conservative) and Social Democratic (progressive) parties, has been governing Germany. The coalition passed major legislation to reform the nation's federal system and it also agreed reform the nation's health care system. The lecture will offer a brief sketch of both reforms, while examining tensions within the policy processes structured by a triangle of leading elites, institutions, and German political culture.

Biography

Dr. Detlef Sack is a Lecturer in the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel (Germany), where he teaches political theory and public policy. After receiving his PhD, Dr. Sack worked at the Social Science Center in Berlin and at Aston University (Birmingham, UK). His current research projects focus on the spread of public-private-partnerships within the public sector and on regional development and participatory culture. Dr. Sack's most recent publications include:

German Public-Private Partnerships in Personal Social Services: New Directions in a Corporatist Environment (with Maria Oppen and Alexander Wegener), in: Hodge, Graeme/Greve, Carsten: *The Challenge of Public-Private Partnerships. Learning from International Experience*. Northampton: Edward Elgar 2005, 269-289.

Wettbewerb und Kooperation (co-edited with Maria Oppen and Alexander Wegener) {Competition and Cooperation in Public Sector}, Berlin: Sigma 2005

Gewalt statt Anerkennung? Aspekte des 11.9.2001 und seiner Folgen (co-edited with Gerd Steffens) {Violence instead of Recognition? Aspects of 9/11 and its aftermath} Frankfurt, Peter Lang Verlag 2003:

Lokale Netzwerke im Stress. Güterverkehrszentren zwischen kombiniertem Verkehr und Standortkonkurrenz. (Local Networks and the Deregulation of Transport. Freight Hubs between Combined Transport and Regional Business Promotion) Berlin: Sigma 2002