Beyond Social Democracy

Beyond Social Democracy: The Transformation of the Left in Emerging Knowledge Societies examines the electoral decline of social democratic parties and how distinctive strategic moves might enable them to salvage different segments of their former electoral coalitions. Social democratic decline, however, does not imply the demise of basic tenets of the parties' programmatic appeals. Under the impact of novel twenty-first-century political-economic challenges, these concerns are also invoked and repackaged with new ideas by other left parties. Empirically, voter movements show that social democratic parties incur net losses mostly to these other leftist parties, while sustaining a balanced, but voluminous exchange with center-right parties. Contrary to commonly held preconceptions, there is little net loss to the new extreme right. These findings will be pertinent to anyone interested in understanding or devising party strategies in twenty-first-century democracies. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

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One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
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103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009496827

DOI: 10.1017/9781009496810

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009496810

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Häusermann, Silja, author. | Kitschelt, Herbert, author.
Title: Beyond social democracy : the transformation of the left in emerging knowledge
societies / edited by Silja Häusermann, Herbert Kitschelt.
Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press,
2024. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2024000019 | ISBN 9781009496827 (hardback) |
ISBN 9781009496810 (ebook)
Subjects: LCSH: Socialist parties – Europe. | Politics, Practical – Europe. |
Party affiliation – Europe. | Knowledge economy – Political aspects – Europe. |
Europe – Politics and government – 21st century.
Classification: LCC JN94.A979 H38 2024 | DDC 324.24–dc23/eng/20240325
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024000019

ISBN 978-1-009-49682-7 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-49680-3 Paperback

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