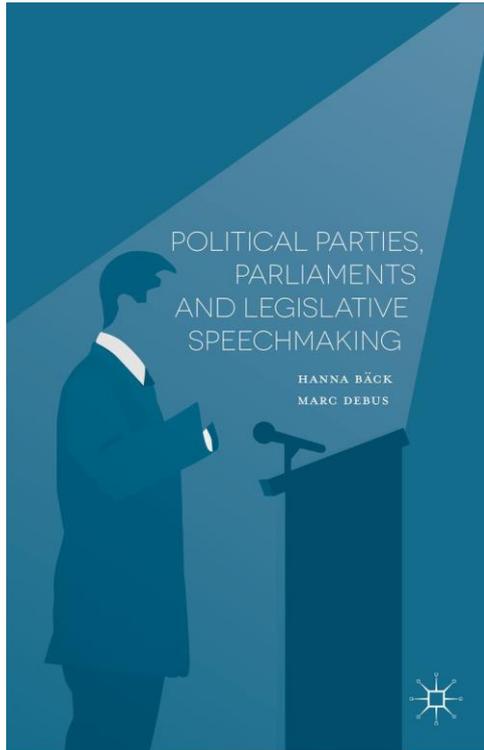


# Political Parties, Parliaments and Legislative Speechmaking

Hanna Bäck and Marc Debus



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Hanna Bäck is Professor of Political Science at Lund University, Sweden, and has previously held positions at the European University Institute and the University of Mannheim, Germany. Her research focuses mainly on political parties and coalition politics.

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"Drawing on parliamentary data from a number of European democracies, informed by cutting-edge theories and using advanced statistical methods of analysis, 'Political Parties, Parliaments and Legislative Speechmaking' will inform future debates in comparative legislative studies both in methodological and substantive terms. The book is an admirable contribution to the debate on party discipline, on the extent to which legislators are able to maintain a distinctive profile vis-à-vis their parties and in what way particular groups of legislators, especially women, are visible on the floor of the chamber."

- Thomas Saalfeld, University of Bamberg, Germany

"This book provides a welcome and study of speeches in parliament, showing that gender, an MP's role and constituency characteristics shapes who talks and how loyal MPs are to their party when talking. Bäck and Debus have produced an exemplary piece of comparative research and a must-read for anyone interested in political parties or parliaments."

- Shane Martin, University of Leicester, UK

"Talk is the defining activity of parliaments, yet we know little about who speaks, about what, and to what effect. In this insightful and carefully researched book Bäck and Debus demonstrate that legislative talk is not always cheap or predictable. The rest of us should listen."

- Kaare Strom, University of California, San Diego, USA

## About the book

In analysing speeches made by legislators, this book provides theoretical and empirical answers to questions such as: Why do some Members of Parliament (MPs) take the parliamentary floor and speak more than others, and why do some MPs deviate more than others from the ideological position of their party? The authors evaluate their hypotheses on legislative speechmaking by considering parliamentary debates in seven European democracies: Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Sweden. Assuming that MPs are concerned with policy-making, career advancement, and re-election, the book discusses various incentives to taking the floor, and elaborates on the role of gender and psychological incentives in speechmaking. The authors test our expectations on a novel dataset that covers information on the number of speeches held by MPs and on the ideological positions MPs adopted when delivering a speech.

