This project aims at:
- enhancing the notion of parties being unitary actors,
- measuring ideological heterogeneity within parties,
- and exploring the causes and consequences of intra-party heterogeneity.

Theoretical framework:
In our attempt to assess varying levels of intra-party heterogeneity, we take into account:
- theories on political socialisation,
- the principal-agent approach, and
- incentives stemming from institutional constraints (e.g. electoral systems).

Data and methods:
- Individual features of MPs and ministers
- Parliamentary speeches (analysed with computerised methods)
- Co-sponsorship of bills
- Legislative voting behaviour

Cases:
- Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden

Recent working papers:
- Bäck, Hanna, Marc Debus and Jochen Müller (2013): Who is allowed to take the floor? Individual and party-level determinants of the number of legislative speeches delivered by Swedish MPs. (Political Studies Association Annual Conference, Cardiff, March 2013).