Becoming the World's Most Powerful Woman

Angela Merkel and the Transformation of United Germany

Since 2005, Angela Merkel has redefined not only the way Germans see themselves but also the way that politicians worldwide perceive women in power. The East German daughter of a Protestant pastor, this physicist-turned-politician has deployed her life experiences to cultivate a unique set of leadership skills. Her pragmatic, data-driven, and future-oriented approach to politics – grounded in a commitment to democratic pluralism, human rights, and personal responsibility – has produced extraordinary paradigm shifts in many national policies in the wake of major European crises. This talk will provide an overview of Merkel's leadership performance across key domains, contextualizing them within the broader context of German policies before and after unification. It will also analyze personal socialization factors that have contributed to her hard-earned status as the World's Most Powerful Woman.

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4:30-6:00 pm • Baker Hall A53

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