The end of the career is a crucial moment in the life of a politician: Whether forced into resignation or retiring (more or less) voluntarily, chances are he/she will suffer from perceived meaninglessness and hunger for the next opportunity to run for office. Dr. Horst’s talk highlights the motives and strategic considerations of members of Congress who resigned or retired in the past decade – and argues that such retirements help guarantee the competitive nature of electoral politics in the United States.

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Patrick Horst received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Hamburg. He co-edited Die USA am Ende der Präsidentschaft Barack Obamas (with Winand Gellner; Springer VS, 2016) and is currently working on a book called The USA – a Failing Democracy?