

## ABSTRACTS

BÓDI, FERENC–BÓDI, MÁTYÁS

Where Are Hungarian Voters? The Spatial Dimensions of Election Research  
– Antecedents (an electoral geographic approach)

Numerous experts choose the political elections for their research topic, no matter which branch of science they belong to. Political science is not the only one to deal with the issue of elections. From history, sociology, geography, philosophy, etc., all the way to modern game-theory for instance, each intends to describe and explain the features of this social event. In the second part of the 20th century, due to the rapid development of quantitative methods in social studies, more sophisticated methodology (GIS, for instance) has become available to doing research and to finding relations between the features of the society and their voting habit. Researching of the Hungarian elections does not have a great tradition like in Western Europe or even in the United States. Needless to say, the historical circumstances of the 20th century made it impossible. In the past twenty years, this kind of work has been published by a great variety of authors of different background, as it was mentioned above. Our goal with this paper is to compare some socio-economic indicators with the level of the participation in the local and the parliamentary elections; however, we do not want to explain the results directly with them. We examine the possible relation at the local level as well as at the county levels.

**Keywords:** Politics and sociology, electoral geography, local policy, legitimacy, political culture, regional analysis

SZABÓ, GABRIELLA

Vox Pop. The Political Image of Popular Media at the Time of the 2010  
Election Campaign for Parliamentary Elections

This article examines the 2010 General Elections campaign coverage of the Hungarian popular media. The aim is to take a snapshot of the way how popular media participates in the flow of political communication. The paper argues that popular media should be considered as a key component of the formation of political identity and it has a very important role in maintaining and

encouraging political citizenship. The study is based on an empirical research which was designed to record the political agenda of daily tabloid papers, freesheets and online news portals in the 2010 Hungarian General Elections campaign. In addition, frameworks of the political agenda were also explored in order to see how political actors and issues were presented.

**Keywords:** Popular media, political communication, campaign coverage, tabloidization, popularization

ÁGH, ATTILA

Changing Paradigms of Public Policy: from Interest Groups  
to Multi-level Governance

By now public policy has become a widespread term and a special political science discipline, with two varieties in Hungary. The first one is philosophical meditation about governance, and the second one is the case study without any effort for theoretical underpinnings. Both extreme versions have impoverished research on public policy in Hungary. The era of public policy in the last decades in Europe can be divided into three periods that indicate at the same time its theoretical foundations as well. I consider these periods basically as analytical tools, since in the real historical process they overlap to a great extent. But in this continuous transformation there is a need to have some milestones that show the changes of periods. Three ideal types of policy making appear in these periods that emerge from each other but they are finally very different. The first period concentrates on the comprehensive interest organizations, the second one on good governance, and the third one on multi-level governance. The state has different functions in these periods, such as the coordinative, regulative and developmental functions.

**Keywords:** Government and governance, interest organizations, policy triangles and networks, new modes of governance and multilevel governance

GÁBOR, PÁL

A Key Category for Opening Spaces. The Concept of 'Gyűlöletbeszéd'  
in the Hungarian Political Discourse 1994–2004

The article examines the function of the controversial concept of 'gyűlöletbeszéd' in the Hungarian political discourse during the first decade after it had emerged. In the present paper the author attempts to delineate the research

results of an extensive empirical analysis. The investigation, which underlies the train of thought, has been conducted in the theoretical and methodological framework of discursive political science. According to this approach the examination purported principally – but not only – to do the interpretive analysis of texts. The article presenting the main conclusions of the research details the issue in three parts. Firstly, it demonstrates the significance of the fact, that the term ‘gyűlöletbeszéd’ is a relatively fresh arrival in the Hungarian public discourse, to all intents and purposes it is the metaphrase of the original American–English term *hate speech*, but its meaning has definitely changed having reached a new political-, cultural- and discursive context. Secondly, the paper emphasizes the functionality of the concept’s ambiguity, and musters the different dimensions, regards and effects of this characteristic feature. Thirdly, the treatise explores the relationship between political contest and political action, and presents the action components of the political debates inspired (and framed) by the concept of ‘gyűlöletbeszéd’.

**Keywords:** Hate speech, political discourse, adaptation, political correctness, ideological polysemy, functional ambiguity, political action

BALOGH, LÁSZLÓ LEVENTE  
State and Violence

Although the relationship between state and violence had taken various forms in the course of history, it is certain that the development of the modern state is intimately linked to monopolisation of violence. Those who lay the down the foundations of the theory of this monopolisation, such as Hobbes, Weber or Elias, agreed that the evolution of state monopoly on violence is a process that has neither a clear starting point nor foreseeable end. The process is a distinct one due to the fact that seemingly state and statehood are closely intertwined. However, this view has been fundamentally challenged by the privatisation of violence that takes place either as a bottom-up or a top-down process depending on the economic potential and political tradition of states.

The monopolisation of violence might be temporarily halted, but it cannot be definitely reversed. States might delegate some of their competences to market actors and to international organisations, but they cannot get rid of the responsibility.

**Keywords:** State, statehood, violence, monopoly on violence, privatisation of violence, globalisation

JAKAB, ANDRÁS

## Why Do We not Need a Second Chamber in the Hungarian Parliament?

Inspired by the current Constitution-making process in Hungary, the article analyses the possible compositions of a second parliamentary chamber: 1. the aristocratic, 2. the federal, 3. the corporative one, 4. the one consisting either of civil society organisations or 5. of local government representatives, 6. the directly elected second chamber, and 7. finally, the one assembling honourable scientists, artists or retired politicians. It reaches the conclusion that a second chamber in Hungary is either unrealistic or undesirable, thus the current unicameral structure should remain in Hungary in the future. According to the author, the idea of having a second chamber in the current Hungarian debate reflects two strands of thought: on the one hand, the mentality of the People's Front of the Hungarian 80s ("the society as represented by civil organisations and trade unions is good, the political party/parties are bad in politics"), on the other hand, a nostalgia for the time before the Second World War (with its half corporative, half aristocratic second chamber). A successful modern constitutional system, however, is based rather on clear democratic accountability and on strong institutions protecting the rule of law (ordinary and administrative courts, constitutional court), which are difficult to accommodate with the two aforementioned strands of thought. According to the author, Hungary should concentrate rather on these principles than on creating a new and questionable second chamber.

**Keywords:** Representation, second chamber, democratic legitimacy, corporations, civil society