

ABSTRACTS

Attila Kovács

FROM CONSULTATION TO CODECISION: THE ENHANCED ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN LEGISLATION FOR THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The role of the European Parliament in the EU decision-making and legislative process has long been a topic of analysis by political science. Part of those analyses study the relative strength of the EP and the two other institutions, namely the Commission and the Council, also participating in the various law-making procedures such as consultations, cooperation and codecision.

The codecision procedure, introduced by the Maastricht Treaty is broadly considered as having enhanced the strength of the EP in European Union legislation. The subsequent treaties of the EU, such as the ones of Amsterdam, Nice and Lisbon have mostly enhanced the role of the EP by extending the validity of the codecision procedure over further areas.

The current paper studies the influence of the EP on legislation in the codecision procedure, already a regular law-making procedure, extended over the most significant joint policy of the EU, namely the Common Agricultural Policy, and more specifically its interest-asserting ability against the Council. The central issue of the study is to find out what the chances are of the proposals for modification approved by the EP to be incorporated into the final legal norm after negotiations with the Council.

The basis of the study was a data base newly made by the author with the help of which an opportunity opens up not only for calculating the success rates of the EP proposals for modification that were also approved by the Council, but also for analysing variables influencing the acceptance of the EP modifiers. So far no analysis of this type and the comparison of the procedures of consultation and codecision as a result of the acceptance of the Lisbon Treaty have yet been made.

The results of the analysis performed are confirmed by the enhanced legislative strength of the European Parliament in the field of the Common Agricultural Policy: the number of modifications proposed by the EP and approved by the Council has been doubled. In addition, the activity of the EP Members has also grown in the field of law-making after the Lisbon Treaty.

The analysis has pointed out that the possibility of the acceptance of modifying proposals made by EP representatives of the net contributor Member States would also grow during the codecision process.

Keywords: European Parliament, procedure of consultation, regular legislative procedure, Lisbon Treaty, Common Agricultural Policy

Dániel Mikecz

NEW FORMS OF PROTEST AND ORGANIZATION AMONG THE TOOLS OF THE
RADICAL RIGHTIST MOVEMENT

During the radical rightist demonstrations in the mid 2000s – besides the basic conflicts – the violent actions of the protesters and their conflict with the law enforcement gained much attention. The reason of that was the violence of the protests and of the policing of the demonstrations, which was without any precedence in Hungary after the democratic transition. The authorities also tried to hinder the protest events and the function of the semi-legal radical rightist social movement organizations with administrative means. The radical rightist protest organizations introduced such protest and organizational forms, which the authorities could not deal with. These forms were spontaneous protest, protest camp and non-registered social movement organizations. In this paper I argue that the introduction of these innovative forms was possible due to the break down of the public-order partnership and the application of internet-based technologies.

Keywords: Social movements, political protest, radical right wing, use of info-communications, forms of protest, protection of public order

Zoltán, Gábor Szűcs

POLITICS IN AN IMPERFECT WORLD. ON THE THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS
OF POLITICAL REALISM

To providing a comprehensive picture of political realism, the paper discusses the major constitutive elements (or “topoi”) of the realist theory including epistemological issues, ontology, anthropological questions as these topoi emerge in the classics of political realism (Thukydides, Machiavelli, Guicciardini, Hobbes, etc.) and in the modern authors (Weber, Morgenthau, Schabert, Williams, etc.). This approach reveals some unconventional insights into realism. For example, political realism is not so much about power politics than about the conflicting nature of human societies. Additionally, a comprehensive depiction of political realism confronts us with the question whether it would

be possible or desirable to create a coherent theory of realism or it should remain in its present form as a set of ideas that are more or less interconnected with each other.

Keywords: Realism, political theory, history of political thought, international relations theory, Machiavelli

Fruzsina Nábelek

NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN IN HUNGARY. NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN IN THE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS OF PARTIES

This paper examines the use of negative campaigning in the Hungarian parliamentary election campaigns that took place since the regime change. The major hypothesis of the paper is that due to the transformation of the party system and to the development and professionalization of campaigns the number of negative messages has increased since the regime change, i.e. the Hungarian campaigns have become more negative. In addition the paper aims to answering how the Hungarian parties use negative campaigning as a political marketing technique: which parties use this technique, what type of messages appear and how they are timed during the campaign. To answer these questions the study examines the parliamentary election campaigns that took place since 1990, using content analysis of the direct communication of party politicians and press releases of the parties.

Keywords: Negative campaign, political communications, political marketing, parliamentary elections

József Zoltán Málik

METHODOLOGICAL MOVEMENT BASED ON MECHANISMS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Scholars working in social sciences often meet a dilemma how to “choose” between quantitative and qualitative methods of research from data collecting working towards conclusion. The question often occurs: where is the borderline between speculative and available scientific explanations. The aim of the paper is to present methodological movements that make an attempt to bridge this dilemma by methodological considerations.

The paper wishes to present mechanism-based explanations and fundamental considerations related to social mechanisms. Nowadays this approach can be found primary in life sciences and economics, but from our general perspective it is possible and it is worth extending it to political science. Mechanisms

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help us to substantiate investigations that are politically relevant to phenomena, and which are conducted in political science, but explanations often prove to be “clumsy” from methodological point of view.

Keywords: Deductive-nomological explanations, inductive-probability explanations, Hempel’s covering-law model, mechanism-based explanations, causation, idiographic and nomothetic explanations, social mechanisms