



## Abstracts

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### **Contributions to the Regulation of the Referendum after 2013**

SZILÁRD SZABÓ

*The purpose of this paper is to define and show the nature and functions of the referendum in general, and to examine the legislative regulation of its institution in Hungary after 2013.*

*The brief introduction will be followed by an analysis of some of the institutional and instrumental features of the referendum in the context of the constitutional law. Special attention will be paid to the question raised by, and to the pros and cons of the referendum held in 2016. The legal aspects and social consequences of this invalid referendum will be emphasized.*

*Keywords: referendum, Fundamental law, Constitutional Court, National Assembly, National Election Commission, International treaties*

### **Electoral Systems in East Central Europe**

GYÖRGY FÁBIÁN

*The democratic transition in Central and Eastern Europe provides a good opportunity to examine how to apply the findings of the science of elections in a new dimension. This study based on 167 elections in 23 countries shows the formation, evolution and political consequences of the new electoral systems. The hypothesis of the paper is that the elections and electoral systems in this region not always correspond to the conventional wisdom. Our analysis divides into five parts the region (Central Europe, Western and Eastern Balkans, Baltic States and the other former republics of Soviet Union). This division helps to get an sophisticated picture about the emergence and changes of the new electoral systems. By showing country by country we can demonstrate the similarities and differences between and within subgroups as well. Finally using three well-known indices (least square index, effective electoral and parliamentary number of parties) the study summarizes – country by country and subgroups by subgroups by type – the political consequences for the proportionality and party structure. The analysis of the 167 elections demonstrates that Central and Eastern Europe does not show uniformity regarding the political consequences of the electoral systems. Their influence is more moderate than in the*



*established democracies and they are also much more volatile. Their changes have shown rather diverging than converging trend in the last quarter century. The conventional findings are difficult to apply for this region, they are only partially valid, especially the formation of party structure differ from the previous experiences. In sum the Central and Eastern European elections do not invalidate the conventional statements of the electoral studies but they often do not show corresponding image. So they significantly contribute to the further development and refinement of the previous findings.*

Keywords: *electoral system, Central and Eastern Europe, regime change and electoral system, comparative analysis, findings of electoral studies in Central and Eastern Europe*

### **Debunking Myths about the American Presidential Elections of 2016 and Failures in the Social Sciences**

ERIC BECKETT WEAVER

*Throughout the campaign and following the elections of 2016, the two major political parties cherished stories about what happened, and why it happened. Some of these stories have some basis in fact, while others are completely mythical, and nevertheless believed. These stories, or myths, arise from the political desires and belief systems of those who tell them. In what follows we will examine these stories in the lights of the facts.*

Keywords: *American Presidential Elections, media bias, silent majority, Russian interference, myths, conspiracy theories, popular vote, pollsters, social sciences*

### **The Suppression of Discourse: The Hidden Internet Communities Related to the Alt-right and the US Presidential Elections of 2016**

SÁNDOR KISS

*I examine the US presidential election of 2016 and how hidden groups related to the alt-right manipulated the social media with hoaxes and memes. I examine some of the media platforms and forums where these contents mainly appeared during the campaign and I also present the anatomy of the groups' previous actions, and from these I attempt to demonstrate that their efforts are coordinated and their methods have become more sophisticated in the recent years.*

Keywords: *Achan, Donald Trump, Social Media, Fake News, Alt-Right, Memes*

### **Majority Decision Making**

LEVENTE NAGY

*Modern democracies, based on pluralism, recognize and affirm diversity, permit peaceful coexistence of different interests, values and convictions, and advocate a form of political moderation. For democracy to function and to be successful two of the most challenging questions must be raised and answered: Who have the right for collective decision-making?*



*What principle should be used for these people to be elected? With the development of modern democracies it has become more and more accepted the idea that democracy should rest upon the principle of majority rule, coupled with individual and minority rights. Majority rule thus refers to the quantitative aspect of democracy, while individual and minority rights express the qualitative or constitutional aspect of it. A detailed analysis of democratic decision-making processes shows that not all decisions made by legislature – whose members are elected by the majority of the people – are effective and good decisions, and points at the fact that most of the democratic decisions are not made by the majority but by minority groups, who quite often take the initiative and can seriously influence the majority. This paper focuses on these issues.*

*Keywords: majority, majority principle, collective wisdom, group effect, group decision-making, risk taking, group polarization*

### **Globalization theory of late modernity and identities in risk society**

BALÁZS BÖCSKEI

*Modernity is the sum of the fragmented cultural systems of meaning, that are mutually influential on each other, plus of economic and political relations continually changing and transforming – a complexity that manifests itself in the structure of the (world) risk society even on the level of the individual. Following the late modern turn, the phenomenon of the means and opportunities determining the ability of choice is not being shared equally, but multiplied as regards global actors, as well as choice of identity, perceptibility of risks and facing them. The study presents the new inequality factors and the asymmetric power relations of the late modernity along the works by the recently died sociologists of the globalization theory (Ulrich Beck and Zygmunt Bauman). In the world risk society, each community and individual bear the risks indifferently. Accordingly, the ascertainments of the study are that the globalised economy and the subjects of the local poverty do not possess the same degree of the freedom of maneuvering. In order to demonstrate this and also to identify each postmodern life-strategy, the study relies on the works on identity by the discussed sociologists. According to the latter, the study concludes, that the reflexivity of the risk is the most profitable for those who are in the high position of the new inequality, thus, have the power to determine conflicts generated by them and inflict them on those excluded from the struggle of definition of risk.*

*Keywords: late modernity, globalization, Zygmunt Bauman, risk society, political economics of uncertainty, Ulrich Beck*