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POLITICAL PROCESS : PUBLIC OPINION, ATTITUDES, PARTIES, FORCES, GROUPS AND ELECTIONS

VIE POLITIQUE : OPINION PUBLIQUE, ATTITUDES, PARTIES, FORCES, GROUPES ET ÉLECTIONS


François Hollande’s pledge to legalize same-sex marriage and adoption rights for same-sex couples was quite easy to fulfill: in voters’ eyes, the Socialist Party had a monopoly over this fiscally neutral social issue, which meant that the measure could be voted in by a strong parliamentary majority. However, the executive power’s preference for open debate on a vague reform project reignited a deep social conflict and revitalized the opposition. This article therefore focuses on the shifting capacities of political actors to keep their campaign promises and on the consequences of fulfilling these pledges in the political realm. [R] [See Abstr. 68.5741]

68.6132 ACKERMANN, Kathrin ; ACKERMANN, Maya ; FREITAG, Markus — Gender, residence and university type make a difference in the level of political knowledge. While in the Real Decreto Ley 20/1977, a situation that remains in the same way the crisis of representativeness in the Spanish democracy?]. Revista española de Derecho constitucional 112, Jan.-Apr. 2018 : 115-143.

The crisis of representativeness in the Spanish democracy demands constructive legal solutions to foster its improvement. One of the pillars subjected to doctrinal criticism is the configuration of the electoral system. As is widely known, the Spanish Constitution of 1978 (CE 1978) established the general guidelines to the electoral system. Its detailed development would be a task for the principal legislator. The LOREG opted, amongst many other resolutions, for to maintain an electoral model of blocked and closed lists established with provisional nature in the Real Decreto Ley 20/1977, a situation that remained in the same way until today. The present paper criticizes the obsOLEsence of this system as well as its negative effects for the overcoming of the representativeness for both affecting to the political freedom of the voter and hindering the internal democratization of political parties. [R, abr.]

68.6133 ADAMS, Melinda ; SMREK, Michal — Making institutions and context count: how useful is feminist institutionalism in explaining male dominance in politics? Politics and Gender 14(2), June 2018 : 271-276.

While the same formal candidate-selection rules are generally in place throughout a state, there is often intracountry variation in male descriptive overrepresentation. To explain this variation, scholars often used exclusively on women (e.g., how do women respond to formal institutional opportunities?) or femininity (e.g., how do norms governing appropriate female behavior affect women’s odds of being selected as a candidate?). Rather, scholars must attend to the ways that informal norms regarding masculinity operate across space and time within a country. Drawing on the insights of feminist institutionalism, this essay examines two intracountry sources of variation in candidate-selection: the spatial urban-rural divide and temporal differences between first-time recruitment and renomination. While the formal candidate-selection rules are uniform, informal institutions vary depending on where and when we look, leading to different levels of male overrepresentation. [R] [See Abstr. 68.6162]


Criminal violence can be used to sustain and construct local political orders that undermine democratic governance. I conceptualize how criminal violence and clientelism are jointly used at local levels (e.g., neighborhoods, municipalities) to influence electoral outcomes in Brazilian urban peripheries. I call this criminalized electoral politics. With the help of two dimensions — the nature of the relationship between political and criminal actors, as well as the type of activity that provides a criminal group’s primary source of income — I construct a descriptive typology that allows me to classify different forms of criminal politics prevalent in urban spaces. Throughout the text I use examples from the metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro to illustrate cases of criminalized electoral politics. [R, abr.]


We present a novel approach to disentangle the effects of ideology, partisanship, and constituency pressures on roll-call voting. First, we place voters and legislators on a common ideological space. Next, we use roll-call data to identify the partisan influence on legislators’ behavior. Finally, we use a structural equation model to account for these separate effects on legislative voting. We rely on public opinion data and a survey of Argentine legislators conducted in 2007-2008. Our findings indicate that partisanship is the most important determinant of legislative voting, leaving little room for personal ideological position to affect legislators’ behavior. [R]


This article reports on a study measuring the political knowledge of a sample of students at the Sirte and Omar Al-Mukhtar universities as two examples. South African Journal of International Affairs 24(4), Dec. 2018 : 463-479.

This article reports on a study measuring the political knowledge of a sample of students at the Sirte and Omar Al-Mukhtar universities in Libya in 2015-2016. Variables such as the university attendees, gender, residence, type of faculty, family’s economic condition and parents’ educational level were factored into the analysis, and a sample of 400 students from the two universities was selected to provide survey data. Findings indicate that acquiring political knowledge, as a whole, requires great effort to accommodate Libya’s current circumstances. Variables of gender, residence and university type make a difference in the level of political knowledge. While income and the level of parents’ education do not determine the extent of political knowledge, the value placed on citizenship was found to have a strong effect on the variation in legal and political knowledge. [R, abr.]


Observers of elections often report that voters have engaged in protest voting. We find that “protest voting” refers to a wide range of behaviors, and we create a taxonomy of these phenomena. Support for fringe or insurgent parties is often labeled as protest voting. Voting theorists have used the term in a completely different way, identifying an unusual type of partisan influence on legislators’ behavior. [R, abr.]


We discuss the analytical and empirical challenges confronting research on each type of protest voting. [R]