
There is considerable variation in levels and changes in public employment within and between developed democracies. This article highlights the importance of fiscal transparency in determining changes in public employment. It argues that economic growth increases public employment under low fiscal transparency and that this effect is strongest in years of election. These hypotheses are tested on a panel of 20 OECD countries from 1995 to 2010. The analyzes show substantial evidence in favor of the arguments. Fiscal transparency lowers the positive effect of growth on public employment, a relationship, which is most robust in election years. [R]


Recent studies document that voters infer parties’ left-right positions from governing coalition arrangements. We show that citizens extend this coalition-based heuristic to the European integration dimension and, furthermore, that citizens’ coalition-based inferences on this issue conflict with alternative measures of party positions derived from election manifestos and expert placements. We also show that citizens’ perceptions of party positions on Europe matter, in that they drive substantial partisan sorting in the electorate. Our findings have implications for parties’ election strategies and for mass-elite policy linkages. [R]


The EP’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM Committee) is a core actor within the EU’s gender equality policy machinery. Its capacity to act, though, is shaped by the institutional setting within the EP. Using a qualitative approach, this article shows how this particular committee exploits parliamentary rules and routines to maximize its influence. Existing scholarship has suggested that the voluntary nature of its membership implies a weak position within the EP. However, there is evidence to support a contrary interpretation that its voluntary membership assures institutional persistence, thematic inclusion, organizational attention and networked integration. [R] [See Abstr. 67.352]


Globalization in nuclear area resulted in transformation of the global nuclear challenges. New approaches towards international relations development in nuclear area are required in order to decline a level of global nuclear danger. It is offered: (1) to establish international institution of independent experts on nuclear issues, which is supposed to play a key role in intergovernmental disputes resolution alongside with existing international institutions; (2) to start international cooperation of concerned academia and universities targeted to: create an integrated research and scientific environment for tackling global nuclear challenges; providing opportunity to create a single educational environment for professional training of independent experts based on common methods, approaches and educational programs, and also designed for governmental and international personnel, students and future international relations employees. [A, abr.]


The Syria refugee crisis in Lebanon carries daunting challenges at the human, social, economic, political and security levels. As such, it would require a decisive mobilization of the policies and instruments the EU possesses in the framework of its European Neighborhood Policy and as a crisis-manager and peacemaker. Though it prides itself on being the major international donor supporting both Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon, the EU has been privileging an essentially humanitarian response. Fieldwork confirms the limited impact of such a response and suggests that many tensions are left to build in this close neighborhood with potential political and security fallout on the EU itself. [A] [See Abstr. 67.842]


This paper calls for comparative analysis of international humanitarian law and Islamic laws regulating armed conflict by focusing on the underlying assumptions and interests informing both systems (rather than on rule-based comparison). It argues that examination of the biases inherent to each legal system can potentially inform scholars to understand better the paradigms shaping each of them. The paper builds on contextual and critical interpretations of both fields of law to assert the need for “critical comparativism” rather than functionalist comparativism. Unlike functionalist comparativism, which treats international law as the “objective” benchmark against which other legal traditions are measured, “critical comparativism” treats the two legal systems examined as alternative manifestations of power structures which, when contrasted against each other, help shed more light on the inherent bias in each legal system. [R]


This article investigates how and to what extent member states comply with EU obligations in terms of process and outcome. It demonstrates how norm-conform behavior unfolds, or fails to unfold, in an interaction between a member state and the European Commission. The empirical focus is on recent rule-of-law crises in France, Hungary and Romania. The argument is that member states engage in symbolic and/or creative compliance, designed to create the appearance of norm-conform behavior without giving up their original objectives. The cases illustrate that creative and symbolic compliance strategies may be successfully employed by member states because they enable the Commission to disengage from conflicts it judges too costly and yet maintain its credibility, and are conditioned by the visibility of failure to change facts on the ground. [R, abr.]


This paper analyzes transformations in the backgrounds of French MEPs and in their paths of access to the EP. This subject makes sense not only in relation to the European political and parliamentary space but also to the French political field. Our contribution is based on a prosopographical survey of all MEPs elected in France since 1979 and on new methods of analysis of the political and social trajectories: sequence-analysis and optimal matching analysis. These methods allowed us to place electoral careers and their dynamics at the center of our analysis. The resulting analysis objectivizes the social and political properties of the individuals behind them, as well as the transformations of paths of access to the European political profession between 1979 and 2014. [R]


The negotiations over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) exemplify the effort and the consequences of a “divide and conquer” strategy. By choosing this negotiating strategy and by maintaining secrecy over the contents of the envisioned rules, the negotiators exclude diverse stakeholders in developed and developing countries who will be affected by agreements that establish rules for the global econo-