ABSTRACTS

Zsolt Enyedi – Fernando Casal Bértoa
PATTERNS OF PARTY COMPETITION IN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE (1990–2008)

The article analyzes the last two decades of East-Central European countries along the principal dimensions of party systems. It also investigates the relationships among the various attributes of party competition. The authors regard polarization, fragmentation, closure (introduced by Peter Mair) and volatility as principal dimensions of party systems, but they argue that the qualitative characteristics of party relationships are as relevant as these much researched standard dimensions. They draw attention and systematically scrutinize questions such as how durable the alliances among parties are, how consequential ideological similarities are in government building, and how many and what kind of ideological camps exist in a given party system. The examination of the data proves that for most of the analyzed period party relations were more crystallized in Hungary and the Czech Republic than in Slovenia, Estonia, Bulgaria and Latvia, while the other countries of the region were situated between these two groups. With the exception of volatility the analyzed indicators moved rather closely together, indicating that it is legitimate to talk about a syndrome of institutionalization. Since the party elites have relatively little control over volatility, the latter variable is not an integral part of the syndrome.

Gergely Karácsony–Dániel Róna
THE SECRET OF JOBBIK. THE DETERMINANTS OF THE RISE OF THE HUNGARIAN EXTREME RIGHT

The success of Jobbik was perhaps the most remarkable result of the recent European Parliamentary Elections in Hungary. We strive to understand why people cast their ballot to the radical right. Our hypotheses are based on the international literature and the assumptions of public discourse. The empirical analysis consists of two parts. First we carry out a panel data analysis in which we chart the social background and motivation of the Jobbik-voters. We conclude that social frustration has only marginal,
whereas anti-establishment attitude, nationalism and anti-Roma attitudes have much more significant impact on preference for Jobbik.

In the second part of our analysis we try to answer to the fundamental question: Why did the breakthrough of Jobbik happen now when anti-Gypsy attitudes have existed for many decades? Using content-analysis data we demonstrate that the Gypsy problem strongly determined the political agenda which was a very favourable phenomenon for Jobbik. Although the party and its politicians had only very limited coverage, due to the ownership of issues the media also contributed to the success of the Jobbik by highlighting the issues related to Gypsies.

István Balogh

A POLITICAL THEORY OF THE SOCIETY
An outline of the historical changes of social theory paradigms

The “revolutionary” changes of social theory can be called as “non-Kuhnian” paradigms. The characteristics of these great theoretical changes are their interrelationship with the historical transformations of modern society. The development of philosophical, economic and sociological social theories are constituent parts of the beginning of the new periods of modern capitalism. They are theoretical sources and reflections of this development (I). The new systemic crises (ecological, economic, moral values and social crisis) and the extending control mechanisms which create the chances for recovery suggest a new paradigmatic shift, namely the necessity and possibility of political social theory (II). The anthropologically founded normative principles of political social theory – the development of skills, responsibility and performance-dependent recognition – could open the prospect for a further development of modern society (III).

Zoltán Balázs

RECONSTRUCTING BÉLA MENCZER’S THOUGHT WITHIN THE TRADITION OF HUNGARIAN CONSERVATISM

The paper is based on the almost complete survey of the legacy of the journalist and historian Béla Menczer, born in 1902, living in emigration since 1920. He is one of the lesser known figures of Hungarian conservative tradition. The fundamental ideas of his thinking are outlined, and on this basis, analysing his oeuvre, a proposal is made here on how to reconstruct and explore the Hungarian conservative tradition. It is argued that this tradition should be understood less in terms of authors and more in terms of texts written in genres of a wide range.
ABSTRACTS

György Gajduschek
THE IDEOLOGICAL CRITICISM OF THE SLOGAN
OF “RUN LIKE A BUSINESS”

The paper criticizes the “Run like a business” ideology that prefers market to government, private company to public institutions. The study sums up the main arguments of this ideology based mostly on an overly simplified version of neoclassical economics and attempts to provide a structured inventory of counter arguments. Counter arguments first attack the myth of the general superiority of the market and the firm. Secondly, it is argued that government is different. Thus, even if market and firm were superior, mechanisms inherent in them still cannot be applied in most parts of government business.