

## ABSTRACTS

HAJNAL, GYÖRGY – VIDA, SAROLTA:

The populational dynamics of government agencies and the factors shaping them between 1990 and 2014

Government agencies are the weightiest components of governmental apparatuses both in size and – at least in the area of policy implementation – significance. Still, research efforts at understanding and explaining the structural dynamics of agencies, the driving forces of their creation, transformation and termination have been modest, especially when it comes to broad scope empirical investigations. Earlier research on this topic established different, partly contradictory claims regarding the forces shaping the landscape of government agencies. The ambition of this study is twofold. Based on an original database covering a broad range and a long time span (1990/1995–2014) of Hungarian government agencies we, firstly, give a descriptive account of the dynamics of post-transition Hungary's agency landscape. Secondly, using quantitative (time series) analysis we test two hypotheses regarding the factors shaping agencies. The first one is whether (longer term) political cycles change the "political colour" – thus the ideological frame – of governments. This factor proved to be insignificant. The second hypothesis relates to short-term political cycles, including election cycles with no change in the "political colour" of government as well as changes in cabinets. Contrary to the previous one this factor seems to be a significant force driving Hungarian governments' administrative policy on agencies.

Keywords: government agencies, structural dynamics, political cycles, organizational population, organizational transformations

KIRÁLY, GÁBOR – KÖVES, ALEXANDRA – BALÁZS, BÁLINT:

The contradictions of political leadership and systems thinking

This paper argues that the failure to implement sustainable policies is not merely due to the fact that successful political leaders lack systems intelligence or foresight but that their ambitions – one of which is their motivation to politically survive – strongly influence their judgements. On the one hand, it is undeniably crucial to understand how leaders acquire and process information

and how their systems thinking perspectives guide their cognitive procedures when turning pieces of information into policy interventions. On the other hand, it is also important to highlight that leaders are embedded both in institutional and political contexts that also deeply affect their political decisions and practices. Based on selectorate theory this paper suggests that in addition to these effects, under the current rules of politics, the main motivation of political leaders is to increase the chances of their own political survival, drawing upon their systemic understanding. By analysing how this motivation affects environmental policy-making, this paper would like to contribute to research that searches for new avenues in thinking about more sustainable political leadership.

Keywords: systems thinking, political leadership, political survival, environmental policy-making, environmental quality

MEHRING-TÓTH, SZILVIA

Male and female representatives in local political elites

The composition and the openness of the political elite is of interest both for social scientists and for the public, too. Who is part of the (current) political elite and what are the characteristics of the community? Starting from these simple questions – based on the model of the classical positional analysis of the elite or on analyses of the political elite –, our study examines a hitherto lightly explored area, the actors of local governments (local elite) and their heterogeneity in the period 1994–2014. A Big Data-type database was used in the analysis, thanks to which we can demonstrate basic statistical data and comparative analyses with reference to the completeness (n=all) of the local-regional decision-makers. Based on the results, following the modes of mandate obtainment and the different types of settlements based on the electoral system, the gender ratios and the percentage of the professional politicians re-running for office can be determined.

Keywords: local elite, political elite, female proportions Big Data, professional politicians

SZŰCS, ANITA

Kant on international order – “Perpetual peace” or long-term cooperation?

Kant is a well appreciated theorist of International Relations, mainly because the liberal argument of the “world order” stems from the Kantian concept of “perpetual peace.” However, the interpretation of his philosophical legacy in

the field of this newly formed discipline is very controversial. Kant's famous mature pamphlet, "On Perpetual Peace" has been widely seen as advocating federalism, a world state and utopian pacifism. This study argues that instead of utopian, eternal peace Kant is primarily concerned with the roots and processes of long-term cooperation. Transcendental idealism explains the reality of international politics, which can be understood as an anarchic, competitive system where the natural state is war. Kant did not want to transcend the state system but to improve it. He shows how to subject international anarchy to law at the level of individuals, states and the international system. For him cooperation is determined by Reason, but at the same time states and human beings have free will to ignore the laws of cooperation. This study highlights how Reason can create long term cooperation in the anarchic international system.

Keywords: Immanuel Kant, liberal international order, international political theory, peace theories, liberalism)

SZÉP, VIKTOR

Consensus in global politics: theoretical approaches to EU foreign policy

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) has been one of the favourite EU policy areas for political science and has been investigated from several perspectives. This study primarily aims at finding theoretical answers to whether the twenty-eight member states can agree on joint actions and whether they can come up with decisions that do not merely represent the lowest common denominator. The traditional theories of International Relations (IR) have primarily given systemic answers, whereas analysts examining the CFSP "more closely" have mainly focused on the socialization of officials working in EU foreign policy. The purpose of this review article cannot be to fully reject the assumptions of neorealism; however, it aims at showing that, by changing the level of analysis, the intensification of cooperation in high politics can be explained despite the intergovernmental nature of the CFSP.

Keywords: EU foreign policy; Common Foreign and Security Policy; theories of International Relations; collective decisions