ABSTRACTS

ATTILA ÁGH
The system of neo-liberalism and “the self-defence of society”

According to Polanyi’s theory, European civilization emerged with the formation of economy and society – specifically the market economy and the “self-defence of society” - as two separate systems with their own internal organizations. The logic of the market economy dominated since the seventies over society as a whole, but at the end of the 2000s the global fiscal crisis generated the crisis of neoliberalism and reinvigorated the self-defence of society. With the crisis of neoliberalism the Age of Uncertainty has arrived with the emergence of the New World Order that has been described by a large academic literature. In the decline of neoliberalism, as a manifestation of the contradictions of this transition period, neopopulism has been the most characteristic crisis product of the new era.

Keywords: neo-liberalism, welfare state, increasing social inequality

ANDRÁS SZÁNTÓ
Schumpeter’s Empirical Democratic Theory

One of the most prominent questions of democratic theory is whether citizens are able to competently engage in politics. This article examines the question of citizens’ political knowledge in relation to democratic theory. The research question of this paper is: Are citizens able to hold politicians accountable, according to empirical research? In order to answer my question, I use an analytical framework derived from the Schumpeterian democratic theory whose central claim is that citizens are irrational and politically incompetent, and therefore, they are not able to hold politicians accountable. This article – slightly differently from contemporary literature – considers accountability not only as a retrospective concept, but also as a prospective one which takes citizens’ anticipative capacity into consideration, as the associated components of accountability – citizens’ preferences, leaders’ manipulation and responsiveness – justify a broader scope of the notion. As a final conclusion of the research, I find that the comparison of distinct empirical studies by means of an analytical framework fosters fruitful reflections on democratic theory.

Keywords: Citizens’ political knowledge, accountability, manipulation
This paper addresses the relationship between charitable support provided for refugees in Hungary and political participation. We analyse interpretations of intentional goals and targets of action, normative ideologies and interpretations of helper-recipient interactions in qualitative interviews carried out with volunteers and donors. We claim that there is a dynamic, two-way relationship between participating in charity and political participation. Certain political commitments may imply engagement in civic helping of refugees, which we call the charitization of politics. On the other hand, participating in charitable actions and becoming emotionally involved may lead to apprehending the deeper causes of suffering, increasing public responsibilities and public awareness even of those initially refusing to address such political issues. This we call the politicization of charity. We emphasize two major aspects of this dynamic relationship. Firstly, referring to the critical theory of charity and volunteering we emphasize the politicization of charity in this particular social context. Second, we aim to contribute to the wider discussion on the relationship between civil society and politics in Hungary. The political aspects and implications of charitable support for refugees revealed in this paper resonate with more general claims about the fragmented, informal and performative character of politics in Hungary.

Keywords: solidarity, charity, civil society, political participation, migration

Over the past few years, elections have shown worldwide that social media plays an increasingly important role in political life, both in politics and in the political activity of voters. Social media sites have become a new domain for the measurement of public opinion, offering many new opportunities. Discourses (such as tweets) and acts (such as likes) can form the basis for an election prediction. Compared to traditional prediction methods, big data-based research can be considerably cheaper and faster and can provide real-time tracking of public opinion. The aim of our paper is to gather international examples and showcase the success and failure of implementing them on Hun-
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Hungarian Facebook data and thus provide researchers with a basis for further investigations. In our analysis we examined whether there is a correlation between the number of likes that Hungarian parties and party leaders get on Facebook and the political poll results conducted in the same time period. The average number of likes per post proved to be the most appropriate indicator for party preferences, showing fairly good correlations in 7 of the measured 12 months. Beside this the indicator is quite volatile, and correlations differ between parties and party leaders.

**Keywords:** big data, measurement of party preference, election research, election prediction, Facebook

JÓZSEF SZABADFALVI

Democracy – Parliamentarism – Dictatorship

The reconstruction of László Ottlik’s political science views between 1929 and 1935

The study aims at reconstructing the central categories of László Ottlik’s political science views. In his studies published between 1929 and 1935, he sought to give a new approach to the issues and interrelations of democracy, parliamentarism and dictatorship. With his peculiar interpretation of modern political systems between the two World Wars, Ottlik renewed the contemporary „state centric” Hungarian political science thinking.

**Keywords:** László Ottlik, democracy, parliamentarism, dictatorship, political system, form of government
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