

ABSTRACTS

Jürgen Mittag and Claudia Hülsken

From ‘Second-Order Elections’ to Europeanised Elections? 30 Years of Direct Elections to the European Parliament

Analyses on European elections are primarily characterized by ‘snapshots’ of individual elections; however, thus far, little systematic comparisons or quality longitudinal type research have been conducted. The authors give an overview over the past three decades of European elections, summarizing key research findings which primarily used explanatory models of ‘second-order elections’. At the same time, in a diachronic perspective, empirical trends of the previous direct elections are highlighted. The focus is on whether direct elections are subject to change and to what extent they are characterized by constancy. In this context, election campaigns and media coverage over the elections, as well as electoral systems, turnouts, results and also group formation processes in the European Parliament are considered.

Wolfram Kaiser

Policy networks in European integration: contemporary history and political science in dialogue

This article discusses the results of recent historical research on policy networks in the first decades of European integration. This research has borrowed some concepts of political science research about the EU as a multi-level system of governance and the role of policy networks. With its broader view on the role of networks in processes of integration, however, it goes beyond the narrow focus on structures and processes of decision-making in certain policy fields. Above all, this research can modify vague assumptions of political science research about the beginnings of transnational policy networks and add to a better understanding of temporal change in the governance of the EU.

Martin Schwanholz and Victoria Krummel

The relevance of the Lisbon Strategy for the German Parliament – a mixed balance

As of yet, little empirical research has been conducted over the question of the role the Lisbon Strategy plays for and in national parliaments. The authors have attempted to give an answer to this question regarding the German Parliament. The results, however, are ambiguous. Though it can be shown that the Lisbon Strategy, since its adjustment in 2005, is perceived more clearly by the German Bundestag; the strategy itself, with its processes and procedures, remains a low priority for the German Parliament. This becomes particularly clear when one compares the Lisbon Strategy to the importance attached to some of its objectives, projects and contents in the German Parliament and in German policies in general. However, this does not necessarily imply references to the European context.

Melanie Piepenschneider

The EU after Lisbon – close to, friendly with, suitable for its citizens?

The relationship between the European Union and its citizens is under consideration. One aim of the Lisbon Treaty has been to attain considerable progress in this regard. The article evaluates with the help of four indicators, describing the relationship between the European

Union and its citizens, how this aim has been implemented. The mutual responsibilities of citizens for Europe and of the European Union for its citizens are the basis for the analysis.

Übersetzungen aus dem Deutschen von Jeffrey Robertson.

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»Der Band füllt zweifellos eine merklliche Lücke in der Literatur zur EU-Außenpolitik im deutschen Sprachraum. Die empirische Beiträge bewegen sich sämtlich auf gleichbleibend hohem Niveau – sehr selten für einen Sammelband – und kombinieren unerlässliche kenntnisreiche Beschreibung und Leserfreundlichkeit mit dem vorgegebenen analytischen Anspruch, was zu einer langen „Halbwertszeit“ der Studien beiträgt und die Anschlussfähigkeit in der Forschung deutlich erhöht. Für zukünftige deutschsprachige Sammelbände zur EU-Außenpolitik ist das Buch die erste Referenz, an der sie sich werden messen lassen müssen.«

Bernhard Stahl, PVS 4/o8

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