

Abstracts

Jörn Knobloch

Policy networks and the secret. The legitimacy of the non-public in the democracy

Policy networks are a central concept within the research of governance and they have a great effect of the contemporary transformation of democracy. However, their importance is accompanied with an insufficient normative reflection. After a critical review of existing approaches, which deals with the legitimacy of policy networks, the article develops a new critical perspective. This perspective rests on the difference of the public and the secret. Then the article analyzes the normative foundations of both sides and reconstructs their history of legitimacy. In the last section the author discusses the possibilities of legitimate secrets within democracy. The article concludes that the systemic status of policy networks preferred by the governance concept is not compatible with democracy. The secret undermines the status of the demos.

Henrik Gast

How do German chancellors win interpersonal trust? The emergence of a precarious commodity from the perspective of members of the German parliament and cabinet members

Interpersonal trust has a widely recognized impact on the relationship between the executive and the legislature in parliamentary democracies. It contributes to the government's stability as it enables open communication between the members of the parliamentary majority, reduces the costs of interaction, opens up new options for action and makes it easier to cope with political crises and situations of uncertainty. On the basis of a qualitative survey, this study discusses how German chancellors are able to make a positive contribution to the trust building process. Therefore, the trust related expectations of the members of the parliamentary majority are analysed. A typological classification indicates that the effect that heads of government have on the trust building process depends mainly on their personality. Differing in character and in typical behaviour, they fulfill the trust expectations to a varying degree.

Peter Becker

Integration without a plan – The new European growth strategy Europe 2020

On June 17th 2010, the European Council adopted the new growth-strategy Europe 2020, to make the European Union a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. The strategy tries to combine economic growth with high employment rates, increased productivity and competitiveness and social cohesion. The strategy shall become the matrix for European policy making during the next decade – all strategic projects will focus at the objectives of Europe 2020. However, this new strategy for growth stands not for an intentional integration thrust but is a sign for Europe's incremental development following institutional conflicts between the main political actors. Therefore it seems important to know the origin and the genesis of the Europe 2020-strategy to understand the next steps of economic policy integration in the European Union.