

Call for Papers: Special Issue 2018 Comparative Governance and Politics (ZfVP)

Sebastian Bukow / Kristina Weissenbach (Eds.)

Different Worlds of Political Party Development

Comparative Analysis of the Institutionalization of Political Parties in Democracies

In international political party research, there is little consensus on how the institutionalization of political parties should be theoretically and conceptually defined, reconstructed, operationalized, and measured. Nevertheless, a multidimensional approach is gaining increasing traction, which, despite the field's diversity, can be summarized in three key components: **objective, internal party** and **external party aspects**. Objective aspects comprise indicators such as the age of the party, number of members, electoral success, and parliamentary strength. Internal party aspects include internal organizational behavior and attitudes, material and human resources, the routinization of decision-making processes, and value infusion. Lastly, external party aspects consider primarily systematic factors - albeit also external political party funding, perception as a relevant actor by third parties, as well as societal embeddedness and trust in a political party. These three elements are currently discussed in the context of the institutionalization of political parties in “young” and “established” democracies (Panebianco 1988; Svåsand/Randall 2002; Bolleyer 2013; Arter/Kestilae-Kekkonen 2014, Arter 2016, Harmel/Svåsand/Mjelde 2016; Lefkofridi/Weissenbach 2016).

There is nonetheless disagreement about the duration or a **possible final stage of the institutionalization** of individual parties. In this context, the special issue aims to cover **the formation stage of political parties as a first form of institutionalization**, whereby institutionalization will be understood as a process by which the development of new parties is subjected to stagnation and setbacks. The institutionalization of political parties is possible irrespective of the age the democracy in which it occurs – just as political parties institutionalize in young democracies, new political parties in established democracies experience similar process. We observe this in the context of established Western democracies after 1945 in various phases (e.g. 1970s: Green parties; 1980s: new right-wing parties; 2010s: populist parties) as well as in young democracies in the phase of democratic consolidation. As already alluded, the special issue focuses on a comparison of the institutionalization of *individual* political parties.

Proposals

Proposals should follow the outlined multidimensional understanding of political party institutionalization and comparatively examine objective, internal and / or external party factors influencing (de-) institutionalization. In addition to theoretical and methodological conceptualization, proposals should also seek to generate theory and develop hypotheses on the analysis of the causes of this phenomenon. Institutionalization processes in different regional contexts in young and / or established democracies should lie at the core of the contributions. Three central strands of debate in institutionalization research should be brought forward:

- ▶ **Conceptualization, particularly processuality versus the finality of institutionalization.**
 - ▶ How can the institutionalization of political parties be theoretically conceptualized, operationalized, and empirically depicted using a comparative perspective?
 - ▶ Which regional particularities deserve consideration and how can regional limitations be overcome?
 - ▶ Where and when does the institutional process end?
 - ▶ From when can one describe an institutionalization process as deinstitutionalization or a failure?

- ▶ **Operationalization and Measurability (including Indexing)**
 - ▶ Which regional particularities should be considered empirically? How can regional research limitations be overcome (equivalence problem)?
 - ▶ Is a comparative institutionalization index conceptually and empirically only validly feasible on a region-specific basis or also possible supraregionally?

- ▶ **Empirical-comparative studies on regional borders**
 - ▶ Which factors and processes allow a political party to grow into an institutionalized “player” or lead to their demise?
 - ▶ What role do contextual factors (e.g. type of democracy, transition status, regionally differing conflict line developments, electoral system, party financing, political culture / trust in political parties and institutions) play in the institutionalization of political parties?
 - ▶ What role do inter- or supranational organizations and institutions (e.g. party alliances, foundations, financing and monitoring regimes, etc.) play in the institutionalization of political parties?
 - ▶ Can typical “patterns” of political party development across party lines, systems, and regions be generalized from a comparative analysis?

Theoretical as well as empirical contributions (qualitative, quantitative, QCA; small-N, large-N; MS/MD) are requested.

Schedule

Contribution abstracts, containing no more than 5000 characters, should be submitted by 31.01.2017. After a prompt selection decision, contributors will be asked to expand on their proposals. A written first draft of the contributions will be due by 15.07.2017. The contributions will be discussed at an authors' workshop (24.07.2017; NRW School of Governance / University of Duisburg Essen; reimbursement of travel expenses may be possible). The revised contributions should be finalized by 30.11.2017. The selection of contributions for the special issue follow the usual ZfVP peer review procedure. The publishing date for the special issue is planned for autumn 2018. Contributions may be submitted in German or English. Please send your contribution proposals to the editors:

Dr. Kristina Weissenbach
Universität Duisburg-Essen
kristina.weissenbach@uni-due.de

Dr. Sebastian U. Bukow
Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf
sebastian.bukow@uni-duesseldorf.de