Wrapping-up session: review, questions and doubts

Session 08

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University of Lucerne

Spring Term 2021-2022

• Recent electoral news in Europe

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 - The 199 members of the National Assembly are to be elected by two methods; 106 are elected in single-member constituencies by first-past-the-post voting, with the remaining 93 elected from a single nationwide constituency mostly by proportional representation

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 - The 199 members of the National Assembly are to be elected by two methods; 106 are elected in single-member constituencies by first-past-the-post voting, with the remaining 93 elected from a single nationwide constituency mostly by proportional representation
 - The electoral threshold is set at 5%, although this is raised to 10% for coalitions of two parties and 15% for coalitions of three or more parties

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 - What does this say about party system change and the content reviewed in our course?

Block I review

• Doubts and questions!

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 - Other?

• Party-system formation:

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 - The three components of cleavages: social and political features linked by an identity component
 - Overlapping/cumulative vs. cross-cutting cleavages
 - Why does the cleavage structure determines the features of party systems and party competition?

• Party-system change: a chronological review in WE

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 - The silent revolution (value change hypothesis)
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 - Asymmetrical success of new parties: strategies and insitutions?

• Party-system change: a chronological review in WE

Table 1: Early success of Green Parties in Germany and France

Country	Germany	France
Electoral rules	Majoritarian	Proportional
Union's control over the left	Medium	Strong
Segmentation of the Left	No	Yes
Left in Government	No	No
Federal institutions	Yes	No
Type of Green challenger	New Left	Conservative
Average Green vote 78-91	5.1%	1.2%

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 - Top-down vs. bottom-up mobilization

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 - Economic voting theory
 - Rapid party system change due to valence (vs. positional) issues

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 - A new cultural cleavage

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 - general bias towards stability?

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 - Álvaro: Greece
 - Session 14 (13:45 15:15): Wrapping-up discussion, advanced topics and feedback

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- Thanks!

References

References I

- Hobolt, S. B., & De Vries, C. E. (2012). When dimensions collide: The electoral success of issue entrepreneurs. *European Union Politics*, 13(2), 246–268.
- Oesch, D. (2008). Explaining workers' support for right-wing populist parties in Western Europe: Evidence from Austria, Belgium, France, Norway, and Switzerland. *International Political Science Review*, 29(3), 349–373.