
RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
NEWSLETTER

January 2025



A Brief Overview

The January Newsletter Includes:

- 3 Event Announcements
- 6 Book Publication Announcements
- 13 Paper/Article Announcements
- 1 Prize Recipient Announcement

CPS Email Address: rcpscontact@gmail.com

Recent Paper & Article Publications by Members of the Research Committee

Federico Matias Rossi

- Books:
 - Rossi, Federico M. (ed.), (2023), The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Social Movements (Oxford: Oxford University Press). <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-oxford-handbook-of-latin-american-social-movements-9780190870362?cc=ar&lang=en&#>
 - Rossi, Federico M. (2023), Movimientos sociales y democracia (Temas de la Democracia, 45; Mexico: Conferencias Magistrales - Instituto Nacional Electoral). <https://www.ine.mx/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/democracia-y-movimientos-sociales.pdf>
- Articles:
 - Rossi, Federico M. (2024), 'Democracy as a Trust-Building Learning Process: Organizational Dilemmas in Social Movements', International Journal of Comparative Sociology, 65 (4), 423-47. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207152231196509>
 - Naqvi, Ijlal, Rossi, Federico M., and Tan, Rayner Kay Jin (2024), 'Grievance Politics and Technocracy in a Developmental State: Healthcare Policy Reforms in Singapore', Development and Change, 55 (2), 244-75. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/dech.12821>
 - Donoso, Sofia, Somma, Nicolás M., and Rossi, Federico M. (2024), '¿Qué papel juegan los partidos políticos en las protestas sociales? Tendencias recientes en Argentina y Chile', Desafíos, 36 (1). <https://doi.org/10.12804/revistas.urosario.edu.co/desafios/a.14415>

Işıl Zeynep Turkan İpek

- Journal Issue:
 - Migration: The Challenges of the Other. (2024). Hermès, La Revue, 94, (2). <https://shs.cairn.info/journal-hermes-la-revue-2024-2?lang=en>
- Articles:
 - Işıl Zeynep Turkan İpek (2024) « Critique du langage communicationnel et politique à travers l'enjeu migratoire lors des élections de 2023 en Turquie », La Revue Hermès, no. 94, vol.2 pp.140-144. <https://shs.cairn.info/revue-hermes-la-revue-2024-2-page-140?lang=fr>
 - Gökçe Bayındır Goularas, Işıl Zeynep Turkan İpek Ayşe Betül Nuhoğlu Korkut, Nihan Kocaman Mert (2024). « La visibilité de la diaspora Turque en France », La Revue Hermès, no. 94, vol.2, pp.35-39. <https://shs.cairn.info/revue-hermes-la-revue-2024-2-page-35?lang=fr>

Lucia Miranda Leibe

- Articles:
 - Miranda Leibe, L., & Pizzolati, M. (2024). 'We Are Learning How To Organize Ourselves': Feminist Intra-Movement Dynamics. Latin American Perspectives, 51(6), 146-165. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0094582X241298223>

Frank Reichert

- Articles:
 - Reichert, F., Rice, L. L., & Do, N. D. (2025). Methodological pluralism in civically engaged research. Politics, Groups, and Identities, (Online First). DOI: [10.1080/21565503.2024.2444894](https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2024.2444894)
 - Chan, S., Reichert, F., & Krewson, R. C. (2024). Vulnerability as identity facet: Reconceptualizing vulnerability to conduct civically engaged research. Politics, Groups, and Identities, (Online First). DOI: [10.1080/21565503.2024.2423074](https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2024.2423074)

John Higley

- 2025 Mattei Dogan Foundation Prize
 - John Higley, Professor Emeritus of Government & Sociology, Univ. of Texas at Austin, has been awarded the 2025 Mattei Foundation Prize by the International Political Science Assn. for his contributions to elite theory and analysis. Higley's recent books are Elites, Non-Elites, and Political Realism (Rowman & Littlefield, 2021) and Western Elites and Societies in Twenty-First Century Politics (Palgrave, 2023).

Past Event - Workshop

Guest Speakers:



Stephanie Alenda.

French sociologist and researcher. Founder of the School of Sociology of the Andrés Bello National University.



Julieta Suarez-Cao.

PhD in Political Science from Northwestern University. Undergraduate Head and ICP Deputy Director.



Maria Esperanza Casullo.

PhD in political science from Georgetown University. She works as a regular professor at the National University of Rio Negro.



Michelle Haffeman.

Doctorate in Political Science, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.



Kasi Eswarappa.

Senior Lecturer at the Department of Tribal Studies, Faculty of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University.



Işıl Zeynep Turkan İpek.

Associate Professor and vice-chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Yeditepe University, Turkey.



Sophie Enos-Attali

Associate Professor. A teacher-researcher at the ICP for more than ten years, Sophie Enos-Attali heads the Political Science department of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Law of the ICP.



Rocio Annunziata.

Independent researcher at CONICET / School of Politics and Government of the University of San Martin, Argentina.

“The Increase of Discourse Polarization: Politicization of Gender and Autocratic Leadership”

About the Workshop:

At CPS's recent hybrid workshop, “*Increase of Discourse Polarization: Politicization of Gender and Autocratic Leadership*,” scholars gathered in Chile and

Paris to discuss the evolving intersections of polarization, gender politicization, and autocratic leadership. The workshop explored how political identities are increasingly shaped by conflicting views on gender equality, democracy, and cultural values, highlighting the significant impact of these dynamics on the global political landscape.

Presentations analyzed topics such as the antifeminist strategies of political parties in Chile, the role of far-right women in political movements, ideological gender gaps in populist leadership in Argentina, and state policies on gender, caste, and their implications for inclusion in India. Featuring scholars from around the world, these presentations sparked thought-provoking discussions on how far-right and populist parties employ antifeminist strategies to galvanize conservative support.

Furthermore, the presentations underscored the challenges these parties face in addressing opposition driven by women’s growing social and political engagement. The workshop underscored the pressing need for further research on these critical issues, which the committee seeks to address through ongoing scholarship and collaboration, including an “call for papers” in an upcoming special issue.

Session Moderators:

Chile:



Lucia Miranda

Researcher and coordinator of the Participation and Representation Program with a Gender Perspective of FLACSO Chile.

France:



Maricel Rodriguez Blanco.

Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Economy and Law (FASSED) at Catholic University of Paris.

Past Event - Seminar

“Democracy and Society: Challenges, Risks, and Opportunities for Contemporary Democracy”

The Italian Sociological Association Political Sociology Section
The University of Bologna

About the Event:

From October 10th to 12th, 2024, the Political Sociology Section of the Italian Sociological Association (AIS) held its International Conference on "Democracy and Society: Challenges, Risks, and Opportunities for Contemporary Democracy" in Bologna. The culminating event of the conference featured a roundtable discussion on the final day, engaging representatives from prominent international associations in political sociology, including ESA's RN32 Political Sociology, ISA's RC18 Political Sociology and RC26 Sociotechnics - Sociological Practice, ECPR's SG Political Sociology, AFS's RT34 Sociologie politique, and DGS's Section Politische Soziologie.

Amidst extensive deliberations centered on the essence, manifestations, challenges, and advancements of democracy, the political sociology roundtable explored novel perspectives in the field. Discussions encompassed diverse approaches to political sociology globally, emerging research paradigms, and the activities of respective associations and research committees. This forum provided a fertile ground for the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and the cultivation of professional networks, highlighting the collaborative spirit and collective endeavor within the esteemed research community.

Photo of the Panelists



Upcoming Event - Pre-Workshop

Pre-Congress Workshop 2025 - Research Scholars of India on Research Publications at the Indian Anthropology

Pre-Congress Workshop - February 19th-20th, 2025

Keeping in view of the theme of the 19th Indian Anthropology Congress, 2025, “*Envisioning Anthropology for a Developed India*”, the pre-congress workshop is designed to encourage a new generation of researchers and scholars, especially graduate students of Anthropology, to gain insight into the nuances and knowledge of publication processes to develop or establish themselves in the discipline of anthropology in particular and social sciences in general.

Sessions will cover:

1. Peer-Reviewed Articles
2. Publication Ethics and Best Practices
3. Writing an Effective Abstract and Full Paper for Journal
4. Writing a Book Chapter

INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS - 2025

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS
AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS
(IAC25-PCW-01)

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

CONDUCTED BY:

DR. KASI ESWARAPPA & DR. APPA RAO TAMMINAINA

February 19-20, 2025

Hosted by

Anthropological Survey of India,
Kolkata

For more details
visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/iac2025/home?authuser=0or>
Write to: iac2025ansi@gmail.com

DAY 1: FEBRUARY, 19

DAY 2: FEBRUARY, 20

Registration and Other Information:

Last Date to Register:
January 30th.

[Link to Registration Form.](#)

For more information
about the Pre-Congress,
follow [this link.](#)

Contact:

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WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

- Research purpose & Writing Ethnography
- Identifying High Impact Journals & Publishing in Peer reviewed journals
- Ethical Principles in Research Publications & Common Ethical Challenges
- Crafting a Compelling Abstract
- Structuring a Full Research Paper
- Tips for Effective Writing
- Writing a Book Chapter
- Collaborating with Editors and CoAuthors

Humanity and Uncontrollability

Reflections on Hartmut Rosa's Critical Theory

Focusing on the work of Hartmut Rosa, this book provides an in-depth account of the extent to which we, as humans, are obliged to face up to the uncontrollability of the world. Rosa is widely regarded as one of the most original contemporary European social theorists. Along with the concepts of 'acceleration', 'alienation', and 'resonance', the notion of 'uncontrollability' [Unverfügbarkeit] ranks among the most important reference points in Rosa's critical theory, especially in his recent work. It is no accident, then, that – following his extensive inquiries into 'acceleration' and 'alienation' and the publication of his magnum opus on 'resonance' – Rosa has found it necessary to offer a brief, but powerful, account of the place occupied by the concept of 'uncontrollability' in his critical theory.

The first half of this book comprises a detailed outline of Rosa's central arguments on 'uncontrollability', before moving, in the second half, to a thorough assessment of the most significant limitations of his approach.

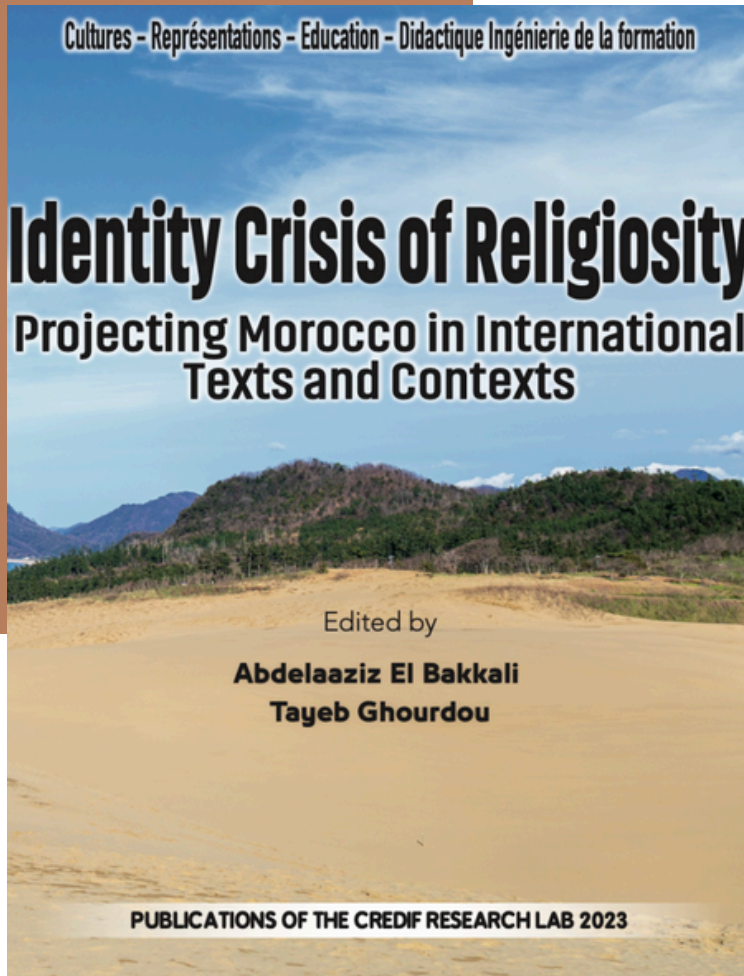


Author: Simon Susen

Simon Susen is Professor of Sociology at City, University of London. Before joining City in 2011, he held lectureships at Birkbeck, University of London (2010–2011), Newcastle University (2008–2010), and Goldsmiths, University of London (2007–2008). He received his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2007. Prior to that, he studied sociology, politics, and philosophy at a range of international universities and research centres - including the University of Cambridge, the University of Edinburgh, the Colegio de México, the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales in Mexico City, and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. He is Affiliate Professor of Sociology at the Universidad Andrés Bello in Santiago, Chile. In addition, he is Associate Member of the Bauman Institute and, together with Bryan S. Turner, Editor of the Journal of Classical Sociology.

Publication Information:

Simon Susen (2024) *Humanity and Uncontrollability: Reflections on Hartmut Rosa's Critical Theory*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 324 pp.



Identity Crisis of Religiosity

This book discusses the interplay between identity crisis in religiosity and the pervasive issue, which is a complex and multi-faceted discourse in contemporary society. Fusing such elements brings ahead a delicate interconnection that shapes perceptions, ideologies, and societal dynamics. Religiosity, often synonymous with the devout adherence to religious beliefs and practices, is deeply personal and culturally ingrained. Yet, within the modern context, individuals grapple with a multifaceted identity crisis stemming from a collision between tradition and modernity. This crisis often leads to reevaluating one's relationship with faith, spirituality, and the role of religion in shaping personal identity.

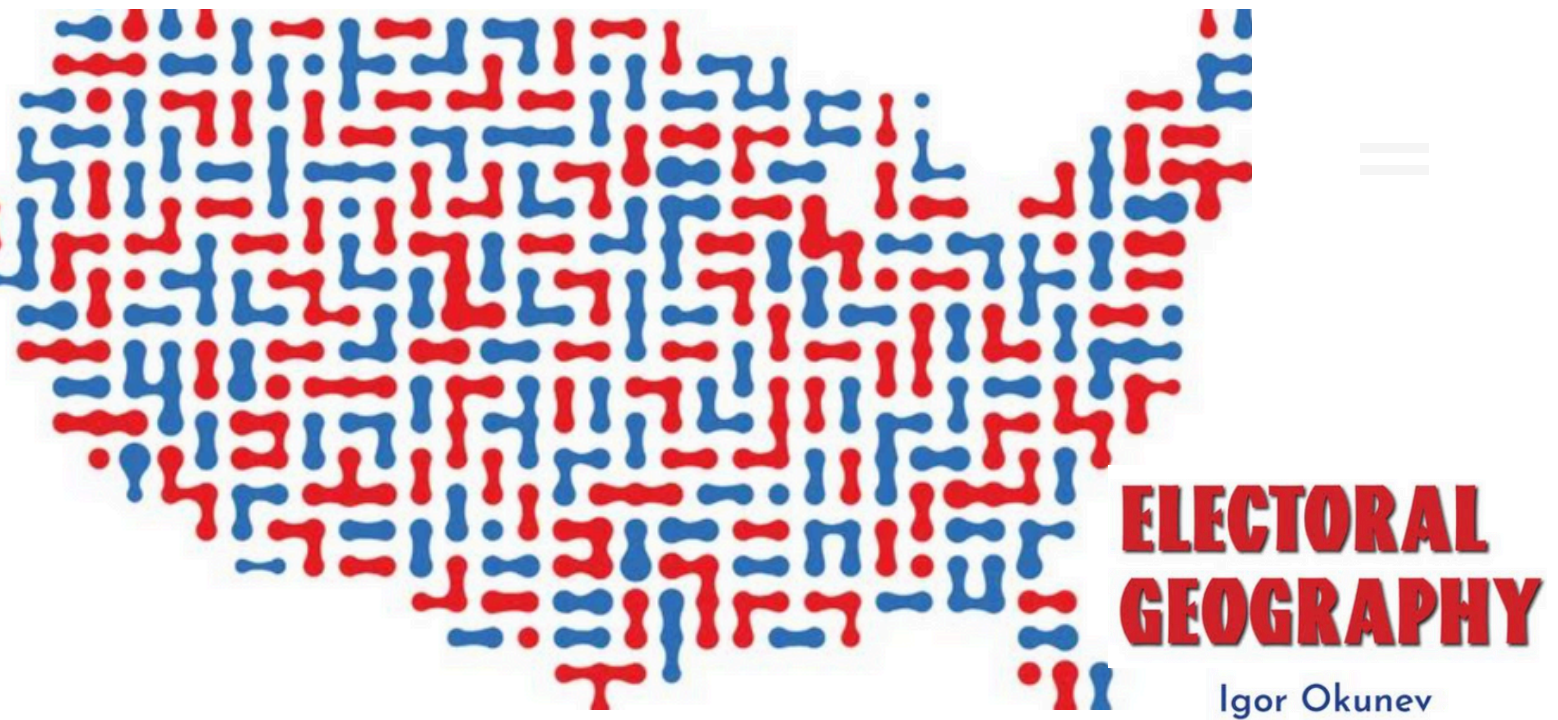
Publication Information:

El Bakkali, A., & Ghourdou, T. (2024). Identity Crisis of Religiosity: Projecting Morocco in International Texts and Contexts: CREDIF, ROA PRINT.

Author: Abdelaaziz El Bakkali

Abdelaaziz El Bakkali is an associate professor of Media and Cultural Anthropology at SMBA University in Fes, Morocco, and a Post-Doc Fulbright visiting scholar at Arizona State University in the US (2024/25), a PhD Joint-Sup at SIU, Illinois (2009/10), and a US Dept of State Fulbright Visiting P4T at UD Delaware (2007/2008). He obtained his PhD (2014) in media and communication from MVU, Rabat. His works focus on cultural studies and anthropology, mainly media, gender, and religious studies. He has edited some books in these related research areas. Aziz has also written many articles in these related fields. El Bakkali has done other educational research as someone who has taught English for over 24 years. He has published many articles in this field, which can be featured on Publons, Google Scholar, SSRN, and other highly indexed works.





Electoral Geography

Electoral geography is the study of the spatial dimension of the electoral process. It examines the factors and patterns underlying long-standing ideological and political splits in society and their territorial differences, as well as the political activity of voters and their voting habits by administrative and territorial unit, constituency and district. This book conceptualizes and operationalizes the phenomenon of geographic favouritism and spatial disproportionality in electoral and party systems. Spatial statistical analysis and geoinformation modelling are used to develop algorithms for assessing the role of space in the electoral behaviour of citizens. This monograph is aimed at researchers in political science, electoral sociology and election law, as well as political consultants. It can also be used as a teaching aid in a specialized university course on electoral geography.



Author: Igor Okunev

Igor Okunev is the Director of the Center for Spatial Analysis in International Relations at the Institute for International Studies at MGIMO University. He is also the Co-Chair of the Research Committee on Geopolitics at the International Political Science Association. His work focuses on political geography, critical geopolitics, federalism and capital cities.

Publication Information:

Okunev, Igor. (2024). Electoral geography. Peter Lang Group.

Leadership and Democracy. A Political Sociology of the Personalisation of Leadership



This book analyses political leadership, addressing key questions central to the ongoing debate on the transformation of contemporary democracies. What exactly is political leadership? How does the relationship between leadership and power shape democratic transformations? What role do individuals play in broader historical processes? How does the personalisation of politics manifest, and how does it differ between leader democracy and populism? Is there still room for charismatic leadership in modern democracies and societies? These are some of the critical questions explored in this volume. The book traces the sociological relationship between leadership and power from foundational theories in the social sciences, through the personalisation of politics, to the rise of leader democracy and populist leadership. This book will be of interest to scholars, students, and practitioners in the fields of political sociology, political science, and leadership studies, as well as anyone engaged in understanding the evolving dynamics of leadership in contemporary democracies.



Author: Lorenzo Viviani

Lorenzo Viviani is a Full Professor of Political Sociology in the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pisa. He currently serves as the Chair of the Political Sociology Section of the Italian Sociological Association (AIS) and is the Editor in Chief of the journal SMP - Società Mutamento Politica (ANVUR A-ranking). He is also a board member of several international associations in sociology and political sociology. His primary research interests include leadership, political parties, populism, democracy, and Max Weber studies. Lorenzo Viviani can be contacted at: lorenzo.viviani@unipi.it.

Publication Information:

Lorenzo Viviani (2025), Leadership and Democracy. A Political Sociology of the Personalisation of Leadership, Palgrave, London. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-77163-7>

Diciembre 2024

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CUPEA

Cuadernos de Política Exterior Argentina

Chile and Uruguay in the face of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis 2023-2024

The objective of this paper was to analyse the official statements issued by the Foreign Ministries of Chile and Uruguay between October 7, 2023, the date of the attack by the Islamist movement Hamas against Israel, and April 7, 2024, the date on which Six months have passed since the previous event, characterized by a strong retaliation by Israel in the Gaza Strip. As a methodological strategy, the principles of International Law contained in Resolution 2625 (1970) of the United Nations General Assembly were used as indicators. In conclusion, Uruguay tends to see an Israel that is more attacked than an aggressor by invocation or omission, by not issuing statements about its army's counteroffensive, except in one exception.

Chile demonstrates a clear commitment to the destiny of Palestine beyond the 2023-2024 conflict itself.

Publication Information:

Caro, I., & Fernandez Luzuriaga, W. (2024). Chile y Uruguay ante la crisis israelí-palestina 2023-2024. : Interpretación de los comunicados oficiales. CUPEA Cuadernos De Política Exterior Argentina, (140).



Author: Isaac Caro

Sociologist from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Master in Latin American Political and Social Studies from de Alberto Hurtado's University (Chile), PhD in American Studies with a major in International Relations from the University of Santiago de Chile. He is currently a director of the Department of Politics and Government at the Alberto Hurtado University. With professional experience in the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Chile), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the South American Peace Commission, and the Arturo Prat University (Chile). His lines of research are related to international studies, mainly conflicts and actors in the Middle East, forms of intolerance, religion and politics.

Social Trust and the Winner-Loser Gap

About the Paper:

The electoral winner-loser gap literature has shown sharp differences between citizens who vote for winning and losing options in key indicators of political support. In this article, we claim that the influence of election results can extend beyond the political domain and reach citizens' level of social trust. Indeed, elections can reveal to citizens who voted for the winning option that their preferences are aligned with the majority opinion of society, while it signals the opposite to electoral losers. We hypothesize that this contrast will trigger a gap in the level of social trust between winners and losers, and that this gap will be larger among politically engaged voters relative to those more disinterested in political affairs. To contrast our hypotheses, we conducted two online panel surveys with a pre-post electoral design during two recent elections in Chile. Estimates from Two-way Fixed Effects regression models support our main theoretical expectations.

Publication Information:

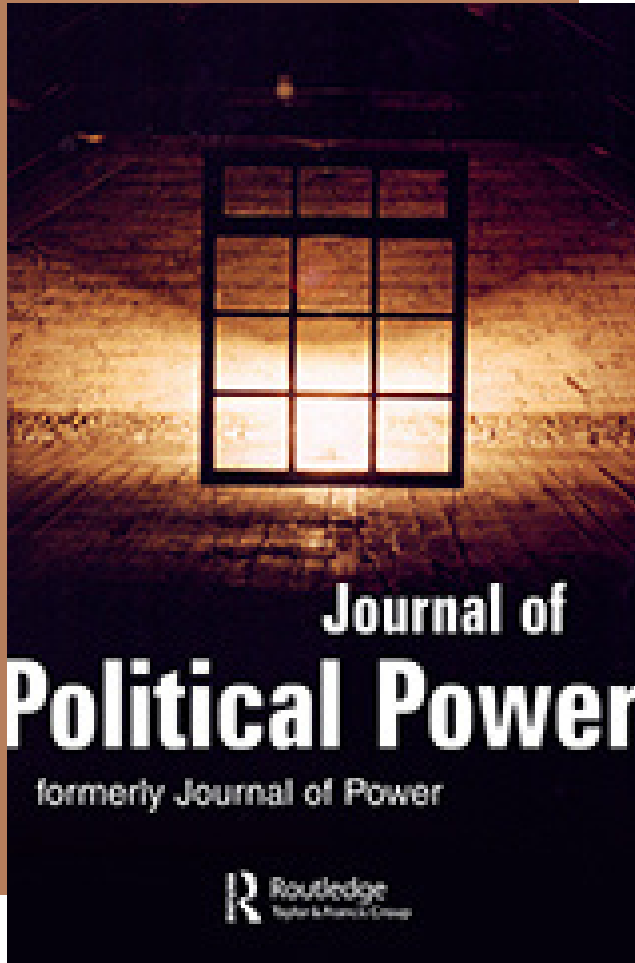
Bargsted, M. & González-Ide, A. (2024). Social Trust and the Winner-Loser Gap. *Electoral Studies*. 92, 102869. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2024.102869>



Author: Matias Bargsted

Matias Bargsted, Ph.D. in Political Science, is an Associate Professor and current Chair of the Institute of Sociology at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC). He is also an Associate Researcher at the Center for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES), and associate editor of the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*. His research spans public opinion, comparative political behavior, longitudinal methodology, and the sociology of religion. His work has been featured in leading academic journals, including the *American Journal of Political Science*, *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *Digital Journalism*, *Political Behavior*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, and *Social Movement Studies*, among others.

Power and Theory: toward a multidimensional explanation of the dynamic political field



Letter from the Author:

This paper represents the culmination of my work in political sociology so far, from the perspective of recent retirement. In my PhD training, I had become dissatisfied with the restricted focus and narrow theoretical assumptions of most research on politics and society. To develop a more comprehensive approach, I conducted 2.5 years (1978-81) of ethnographic field research on a case of environmental contention in Japan. The time span of the case extended 27 years (1955-1982). The research emphasized in depth interviews with organizations and movements on their power relations with each other. The Asian context highlighted the effect of cultural and social structural factors in the construction of power networks. Since then, I have been reflecting (and writing) on how to integrate the diverse causal factors discovered, which span material/ideal and structure/agency divides. Analyzing the micro relational data, I have developed a method for empirically assessing the relative explanatory validity of a wide range of causal theories for a specific case, and integrating them into a multidimensional causal explanation that transforms over time. This method moves beyond the tendency to apply reductionistic theory to restricted sectors of the political. The method can be applied to any complex political process. In sum, the method brings us closer to a case-specific comprehensive and transforming (and in this sense not unified) temporal field theory. The paper illustrates the method through an empirical analysis of a case study of environmental politics in Japan. I hope you will find it of interest and, if time permits, would greatly appreciate any feedback you may have on the strengths or limitations of the proposed method. Your reflections would be invaluable as I prepare a follow-up paper to refine the method and further test it through power network analysis.

Publication Information:

Jeffrey Broadbent (2024) Power and theory: toward a multidimensional explanation of the dynamic political field, *Journal of Political Power*, 17:3, 223-252, DOI: 10.1080/2158379X.2024.2408017. [Open Access Link.](#)

Author: Jeffery Broadbent

Jeffrey Praed Broadbent (born 1944) is a Professor (emeritus) in the Department of Sociology at the University of Minnesota whose academic focus includes comparative sociology; environmental sociology; political networks; political sociology; social movements; comparative policy networks; method of Integrative Structural Analysis; multidimensional theoretical explanation; unified field theory. See research website [here](#). Broadbent received the B.A. (1974) in religious studies-Buddhism at the University of California, Berkeley, the M.A. (1975) in Regional Studies—Japan at Harvard University, and the Ph.D. (1982) in sociology at Harvard University. From 1983-86, he was a Junior Fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows, University of Michigan, with concurrent appointments as assistant professor, Dept. of Sociology and senior researcher, Center for Japanese Studies. In 1986, he became assistant professor, Dept. of Sociology, University of Minnesota, retiring there as full professor in 2021. He was also a member of the Institute for Global Studies, and continues as a Fellow of the Institute on the Environment, both at the University of Minnesota.



Crucial Elements for Understanding Democratization and Autocratization

About the Paper:

Aristotle related both dependent variables: democratization and autocratization in his broader explanation of regime change. For him two factors were crucial, the number of rulers (one, a few, the masses) and their values and behavior in terms of normal times and in crises periods. Here we try to be as parsimonious as possible emphasizing the size of the selectorate, as Aristotle knew already. The selectorate comprises the people who have a say in selecting political leaders. In this respect selectorate theory (Bueno de Mesquita et al.) is purely formal and helps to explain both, the origins of democracy and autocracy as well as their dismissal. The size of the selectorate is the crucial intervening variable in linking more specific causes and circumstances for bringing about the respective states on the dependent variables. Other theoretical glimpses will be taken at crises of democracies and autocracies. The size of the electorate can be limited by (brute) force or even through abstaining from the right to vote or using it to abolish democracy for autocracy (Przeworski, Zimmermann, and Saalfeld). Here we emphasize four major blocs of variables: (1) economic success (Lipset, Huntington), (2) the relative size of the consenters, dissenters, and assenters (Easton, Wright, Linz) bolstering even badly performing democratic and autocratic regimes, (3) the exit options and alternatives created for and by political and economic elites, possibly tied to potential mass mobilization and protest action, and (4) democratic peace theory as to external challenges to regime change. A causal model will be developed around those factors hopefully bringing about a consistent understanding of the basic processes of democratization and autocratization.

Publication Information:

Zimmermann, E. (2024). Crucial elements for understanding democratization and autocratization. *International Relations and Diplomacy*, 12(5), 173–180. <https://doi.org/10.17265/2328-2134/2024.05.001>



Author: Ekkart Zimmermann

Ekkart Zimmermann is a distinguished German scholar who earned his doctorate in economics and sociology at the University of Cologne in 1975. He researches social unrest, political violence, globalization, and democratization, authoring influential works like *Political Violence, Crises, and Revolutions* (1983, reissued in 2013). Renowned for his methodological expertise in causal analysis and comparative inquiry, Zimmermann publishes extensively in political sociology, political economy, and social movements, contributing to leading journals and handbooks. He has held academic positions at institutions including the University of Wuppertal, Dresden Technical University, and Yale University, and frequently serves as a guest professor in Switzerland. Living in Munich, Zimmermann enjoys music and family life in addition to continuing scholarly research.

How to Reduce Inequality

Publication Information:

Morlino, L.
(2024).
How to Reduce
Inequality.
ICEDD, Luiss
G. Carli, Rome

About the Paper:

Differing from previous decades, during the last quarter of the century, only seven countries succeeded in decreasing inequality. They are Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Poland, Slovakia, and Spain. The empirical results that emerge from the cases analysed here point to a diversified and multifaceted reality, which falsify some of the most common propositions. Thus, while one of the most well-known hypotheses (centre-left or left-wing governments that use different combinations of measures to achieve the desired result with policies such as: minimum wage, labour interventions, social protection provisions, poverty protection interventions) is confirmed in Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain, other are falsified. They include the proposition that a decrease in inequality is only possible during a GDP growth phase. In three cases we see that there is decrease in inequality even in a phase of recession. Another commonplace in the literature is that only with leftist governments can there be decreases in inequality. This proposition is falsified by three of our cases (Belgium, Poland, Spain). A third and fourth hypotheses that is falsified is about how much leadership matters in achieving a decrease in inequality, and leaders matter most if they are left-wing. In Belgium, Ireland and Slovakia, the economic factors are decisive. An additional proposition, supported by several scholars, is whether despite all the varieties of solutions, a common or prevalent empirical mechanism emerges in all countries that experience a process of decreasing inequality. Without privileging any perspective, we are faced with different equi-finality solutions in which sometimes only objective factors count, sometimes the intervention of actors, sometimes all variables together. The one obvious and common aspect is that multiple dimensions coexist that combined differently bring out that multifaceted configuration from which inequality reduction flows. The richness of empirical reality goes beyond any attempt to harness it within any theoretical scheme. If, however, we look more closely at the whole phenomenon, we can see the close connection between less poverty and decreasing inequality. These observations lead us to a related question; could we identify concrete possibilities for reducing inequality in contemporary European democracies?

Author: Leonardo Morlino

Leonardo Morlino is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at LUISS, Rome, and former President of International Political Science Association (IPSA). He has extensively published on empirical democratic theory. His most recent books include: *Equality, Freedom, and Democracy. Europe After the Great Recession* (Oxford UP, 2020), *Comparison. A Methodological Introduction for the Social Sciences* (B.Budrich, 2018). *The Impact of Economic Crisis on South European Democracies* (Palgrave, 2017), *La Calidad de la Democracia en America Latina* (IDEA, 2016), *Changes for Democracy. Actors, Structures and Processes* (Oxford UP, 2012). He has also been one of the three editors of the *International Encyclopedia of Political Science* (8 voll. Sage Publications, 2011) and co-editor of the *Handbook of Political Science* (3 voll., Sage Publications, 2020). The last book, *Inequality in European Democracies*, is forthcoming.

