

Political behaviour, subjectivity and contention

Keywords: political participation, electoral behaviour, party politics, political attitudes, civil society, social movements, social networks, political communication, memory politics, (post)Soviet



Research group activities

The main focus of our research group is political behaviour, political attitudes and subjectivity with specific interest in communist and post-communist legacies. Under the communist regime, societies of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) underwent a drastic social experiment. Understanding effects and measuring longstanding impact of this experiment on current CEE societies are among the main goals of our group. Building on new theoretical approaches (e.g. relational sociology) and advanced methods of social science (quantitative as well as qualitative), and in-depth knowledge of the Lithuanian society, we seek to reveal peculiarities of (post)communist societies.

The group has been working together for more than ten years. It has successfully implemented numerous research projects on a number of salient topics – development of the Lithuanian civil society and national party system, cultural opposition in Soviet Lithuania and

roots of civic movement 'Sąjūdis' in late 1980's, among others. The research group is responsible for the Lithuanian National Election Study. We collaborate with researchers of national elections studies in other countries under the framework of the COST action "True European Voter" and inside the network of Comparative Studies of Electoral Systems (CSES). The research group has also developed a Voter Advice Application (VAA) for Lithuania, and it collaborates with VAA developers across Europe (EUvox). Besides socio-political analysis of the current Lithuanian society, we work on the historical-anthropological research on the Lithuanian everyday life, social networking and cultural resistance during the Soviet period, as well as memory of the Soviet in the present.



Proposal

We have expertise in analysing political behaviour using different inter-disciplinary methods (survey data, survey experiments, in-depth interviews, oral history, social network analysis). Our team is experienced in carrying out large scale public opinion surveys (Lithuanian post-election surveys, European Values Survey,

Lithuanian Civic Empowerment Index, etc.), and qualitative studies of political attitudes. We seek partnership with similar groups in other countries, especially focusing on post-communist societies, to engage into comparative research of political behaviour, social movements and memory.



Meet our team

Prof. Dr. Ainė Ramonaitė

Political science

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rūta Žiliukaitė

Sociology

Jūratė Kavaliauskaitė

Political communication

Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Jastramskis

Comparative politics, quantitative methods

Assist. Prof. Dr. Ieva Petronytė

Political sociology, Political psychology

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Inga Vinogradnaitė

Political science, qualitative methods

Assist. Prof. Dr. Jogilė Ulinskaitė

Political sociology

Paulius Skirkevičius

History, comparative politics



Research outcomes

- 8 books and numerous articles in peer-review journals
- Lithuanian National Election Study 2012 and 2016
- Voting advice application (VAA) in Lithuania (www.manobalsas.lt) implemented for parliamentary, presidential and EP elections since 2008

Prizes and Awards:

- Lithuanian Academy of Science Prize for Young Researchers in 2006
- Lithuanian Political Science Association Award for the Best Political Science Publication of 2010
- Lithuanian Political Science Association Award for the Best Political Science Publication of 2012
- Vilnius University Award for the Best 2014 Publication in Social Sciences and Humanities



Resources

- Database of in-depth interviews collected since 2003 with ordinary citizens of Lithuania and elites
- Oral history archive on Soviet and post-Soviet transformations
<http://www.visuomenesovietmeciu.tspmi.vu.lt/>
- An archive of public opinion survey data and political elites surveys (since 2005)



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