

The second section, *Parliaments and the Processes of Globalisation and Europeanisation*, concentrates on the changing role and position of national parliaments in the twin processes of transformation and globalisation. Petr Kolář and Jindřiška Syllová describe the role played by parliaments in the candidate countries during the process of EU enlargement. Drago Zajc presents a comparative analysis of the changing functions of national parliaments after the accession to the EU and the implications of enlargement for the development of Central and Eastern European parliaments in the near future. Edward Schneier offers a look at possible comparisons of the scope of legislative powers in post-communist parliaments and in parliaments with similar experience outside the CEE region.

The third section, *The Role of Political Parties in the Parliaments*, concentrates on re-establishing research on political parties and their role in parliaments. David M. Olson provides an overview of the role of political parties in the organisation of parliaments with special attention paid to the relationship between parliamentary party groups and committees in Central and Eastern European parliaments. Petra Rakušanová and Lukáš Linek introduce a case study of Czech parliamentary party groups with respect to party unity and party cohesion. Csaba Nikolenyi examines coalition stability in new democracies using rational choice theory. Werner J. Patzelt elaborates an explanatory model of party discipline in German parliaments and analyses its application to international comparative studies.

The last section, *Legislative Recruitment*, concentrates on changes in legislative recruitment and career patterns. William Crowther presents the results of his analysis of legislative recruitment in Romania and Moldova. Adéla Seidlová examines recruitment patterns among parliamentary elites in the Czech Republic over the course of the 1990s. Laurentiu Stefan presents the results of a survey on Romanian MPs, analysing

their career patterns and their career preferences. András Schwarz looks at experienced MPs in the Hungarian parliament and describes the core of the Hungarian parliament.

The concluding paper by D. M. Olson, titled 'Possibilities for the Cooperation and Coordination of Comparative Research' summarises the ideas and results of the round table, suggesting future priorities, and directions and strategies of parliamentary research in the coming years.

Petra Rakušanová

## **Polish Parliamentary Research – Bibliographical Information**

### *Introductory suggestions*

For those interested in Polish parliamentary research probably the best place to start is Biblioteka Sejmowa (Sejm Library). It fulfils the combined role of a regular public library, a national archive, and a parliamentary museum. The main part of the collection contains nearly 500 000 volumes. The library's catalogue is available on-line at: <http://bib.sejm.gov.pl> – next to CATALOGUES. It can also be accessed through Sejm's main page – [www.sejm.gov.pl](http://www.sejm.gov.pl) – under 'Kancelaria Sejmu'. Regrettably, the library's catalogue is not very user friendly. There is an English menu on the main page, but the other pages and the entries are in Polish only.

Another of the Sejm's useful institutions is Biuro Studiów i Ekspertyz (Bureau of Research): <http://biurose.sejm.gov.pl>. The website is in Polish and English. By clicking on 'Bureau's Publications' the user is led to list of links for research reports and analyses and related materials, many of them available on-line in portable document format.

Wydawnictwo Sejmowe (Sejm Publishing) specialises in parliamentary history, legal analyses and information booklets with recent legislation and MPs' biographies. Its

catalogue of publications in Polish is available at: <http://wydawnictwo.sejm.gov.pl>.

The Public Opinion Research Center (Centrum Badania Opinii Społecznej – CBOS) is a leading polling institution in Poland. On its user-friendly website ([www.cbos.pl](http://www.cbos.pl)) it publishes (in Polish, with titles translated into English) several reports each month, including survey findings on public attitudes towards parliament and MPs. The website also provides access to the *Polish Public Opinion Bulletin*, a monthly publication in English that summarises the most important reports of the month.

### Selected bibliography

Below is a list of selected academic work in the field of Polish parliamentary research and published in Poland. Legal analyses and electoral studies are not included.

The bibliography is divided into three parts. The first is a list of books (authored and edited collections of papers) devoted entirely to the subject of parliament and MPs. The titles are translated here into English. Most of them present empirical findings, usually dealing with attitudes and values of parliamentarians. In most cases these are qualitative analyses. The second part shows a list of articles published in journals and chapters from scholarly books. The third part presents a list of books and articles that are partially or indirectly related to parliamentary research. In most cases these analyses focus on politicians, political elites, or the political class, and parliamentarians represent a part of the sample studied in the research.

### Books

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- Wesołowski, Włodzimierz and Irena Pańków. (eds.) 1995. *Świat elity politycznej* (The World of Political Elites) Warsaw: IFiS PAN.
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- Gebethner, Stanisław. 1993. 'Osiemnaście miesięcy rozczłonkowanego parlamentu.' In *Polska scena polityczna a wybory*, edited by S. Gebethner. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Fundacji Inicjatyw Społecznych Polska w Europie.
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- Jackiewicz, Irena and Anna Krok-Paszkowska. 1997. 'Komisje sejmowe 1989–1996.' In

- Zbiorowi aktorzy polskiej polityki, edited by J. Wasilewski. Warsaw: ISP PAN.
- Jackiewicz, Zbigniew. 1994. 'Regulacje prawne zachowań poselskich.' In *Konsolidacja elit politycznych w Polsce 1991–1993*, edited by J. Wasilewski. Warsaw: ISP PAN.
- Jaskiernia, Jerzy. 2001. 'Etyka parlamentarzysty a konflikt interesów w postępowaniu ustawodawczym.' In *Etyka i polityka*, edited by E. Marciniak, T. Mołdawa, K. Wojtaszczyk. Warsaw: Oficyna wydawnicza ASPRA-JR.
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Barbara Post

### *The Spring School of Science Studies – Prague, March 2005*

In March 2005 the National Contact Centre – Women in Science organised the Spring School of Science Studies, a working colloquium that took strides towards fostering reflection on science and scientific enterprise as a social phenomenon in the Czech Republic. The National Contact Centre – Women in Science invited researchers from several departments and fields at the University of Lancaster (sociology, women's studies and social studies of science), all of whom are also engaged in the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS). This field is relatively new to the Czech Republic, so for the Czech academic community the event provided an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with critical approaches aimed at examining the social dimensions of the position, function, and impacts of science and the interaction between science and society. The event was organised by Alice Červinková and Kateřina Šaldová, both researchers at the Institute of Sociology AS CR. They invited researchers with a background ranging from doctoral student to full professor, which meant that participants had an opportunity not only to learn about concepts and completed studies in this field, but also to observe examples of STS doctoral work at an early stage of investigation, and to contribute to the discussions that inform and shape this work. The Spring School was organised under the auspices and with the financial support of the British Council.

Science and Technology Studies draws on and combines various methods and ideas from post-structuralism, the feminist critique of Foucauldian genealogy, material semiotics and other theoretical perspectives. This approach is not limited to reflecting on scientific paradigms in purely methodological terms, but instead also devotes attention to studying specific and everyday manifestations of concrete and localised scientific or technological praxis. The aim is to question and dis-

rupt the dichotomies of the social/scientific, semiotic/real, human/technological, material/immaterial, constructed/natural, etc. From the perspective of STS, what we encounter as real is the embodiment of materialisation, permeation, the knotting of ideas and concepts, social and discursive frameworks and technological practices, none of which can be reduced to any single one of these aspects. Reality is woven from various heterogeneous elements, processes and practices. It is chaotic in nature, and only temporarily related and coherent, not absolutely so through some unifying 'grand narrative'. STS emphasises monitoring and examining how concrete, situated materialisation occurs, and how the indivisible interlink between ideological potential, social and discursive categories, and technological practices comes into being. In a long-term perspective, STS explores the processuality, heterogeneity, and multiplicity of concrete, socially and materially localised, everyday scientific and technological practices. Next to the linguistic turn, according to which reality is constructed and delimited through language and linguistic categories, it is possible to speak also of the practical turn, observing how phenomena are further constructed at the point where the discursive, the social, the material and the technological intersect. Another important aspect of the STS approach is the shift from 'impartial' criticism to productive interference and intervention and the active search for and provision of alternatives.

The speakers' presentations addressed various issues and aspects of STS. Professor John Law (Sociology Department, Lancaster University) took the example of the epidemic of foot and mouth disease in the UK to demonstrate some inherent aspects and impacts of globalisation. In order to describe complex and heterogeneous processes that involve many links, like the global trade in agricultural products (in this case meat), he employed the metaphor of 'flow'. (This is a reference to the questionable if not actually counterproductive impact of the Mississippi

River flow regulation, which in 1993 was the cause of massive and unprecedented flooding.) Law cautioned that, in the face of the complexity of the processes involved, attempts to control the 'winding flow' of the global trade in livestock are bound to fail (of the 1.4 million containers of livestock imported annually to Britain as few as 100 000 are inspected, and the trade in livestock within the UK is extremely mobile). Tightly linked, complex, heterogeneous formations, such as the globalised market in agricultural products, are, according to Law, inherently unstable and inevitably doomed. (It is not the speed with which events unfold that determine the tightness of the links in a formation, but rather the relationship between the development of an event and the possibility to intervene in and gain control over it.) From this perspective the foot and mouth disease epidemic is not a case of an exceptional catastrophe but rather the kind of 'normal accident' that necessarily accompanies the functioning of a system. By analysing these processes, STS should help to create a situation where instead of attempting to gain control over unmanageable, unpredictable, closely linked, heterogeneous systems with numerous links, priority is given to fostering systems in which the risk of unmanageability is not that high. In practical terms this means shifting to local production, reduced livestock mobility, locally procured feed, and in general terms a significantly more sceptical view of the 'advantages' of globalisation (itself a phenomenon that cannot be modelled or predicted).

Using the case of the Prague Malešice Incineration Plant, Zdeněk Konopásek (Centre for Theoretical Study, Prague) discussed the issue of citizens' participation in cases advocated primarily by environmental activists. The case of the Malešice Incinerator was publicly presented primarily as a dispute over dioxin emissions, which – despite the unquestionable urgency of this aspect of communal waste disposal – pushed other issues and negative aspects of the incineration