

Abstracts

Political theory methodice in-digesta

Antonella Attili Cardamone

Adapting the title of a Johannes Althusius's famous work, this essay analyses some of the main problematic factors on approaching political theory in the era of globalization. They are the starting point for the understanding of this subject's contents, general perspective and method.

Key words: political theory, difficulties in studying classic authors, notions of power and politics, globalization.

The parliamentary groups as a gravity political center

Miguel González Madrid

The study of the parliamentary groups has drawn attention in many countries, not just those with parliamentary governments, due to the increasing influence they have on the mechanism set for parliamentary oversight of government and overly, fundamental political decision making, either it be tax revenues approval, budget and expenditures, senior government officers summoning, political impeachment and even the legislative procedure applicable to subjects of great interest to executive power. Moreover, the trend toward a constitutionalized organization and functioning of the parliamentary groups must be noticed, without its being accompanied by some kind of control mechanism. Given this omission, and the degree of latitude with which these groups handle themselves regularly in some countries, the emphasis of including them in the list of responsible parties constitutionally responsible is warranted.

Key words: parliamentary groups, legislative power, parliament, political parties, bicameral system, unicameral system.

Brazilian elections 2008: an Internet point of view

Murilo Kuschick

This article analyzes the 2008 municipal elections in Brazil, which appear as a preamble to the presidential election of 2010. It characterizes Brazilian democracy in terms of two elements, the competition model and the rules that the parties and their participating candidates must comply such as minimum economic support for political campaigns minimum and gratuitous use of television and radio broadcasting between the months of August and September, for the promotion of parties and their candidates. Also, it discusses the use of these grants and exemplifies the type of programs with which the parties seek to influence the voters decision, since Brazilian parties do not perform spots, they use the media time through programs. This allows appreciation of the different ways in which the communication mechanisms are used, aiming to the same goal: to persuade the voters.

Key words: Brazil, elections, political marketing, internet.

Governability and environmental governance in Mexico. The experience of the Biosphere Reserve Sian Ka ' an

Ludger Brenner and David Vargas del Río

This article follows an ecological and political approach based on the Sian Ka'n Biosphere Reserve, to analyze the increasing social complexity that has hampered governability and prevented the establishment of effective and socially balanced environmental governance. After setting up the conceptual framework, the governability challenges faced by this natural protected area are analyzed in chronological order and different spatial levels. Emphasis is appointed to conflicts, confronted interests y specific actions taken by the social actors involved. Furthermore, the effectiveness of means taken to ensure participative environment governance and governability of this natural area is evaluated. The necessary information and data was obtained from transcribed an analyzed qualitative interviews to the actors involved preformed from April 2006 to August 2007. This study concludes that there are still no structures and mechanisms capable

of conciliating the conflict between the actors. Therefore, these social actors continue to strife individually to impose their own interests; and so, the contradictions and inertias related to social organization continue to greatly hamper Mexico's environmental governance.

Key words: governance, environmental governability, Sian Ka'an

Mexican management of water

Louise Rolland and Yenny Vega Cárdenas

At the beginning of the present millennium, the Mexican government declared water issues as an issue of national interest. In absolute terms, though, the country is not in lack of water; rather, it is the inequality in the distribution of the resource over the territory, its pollution and lack of hydraulic infrastructure maintenance that are responsible for this shortage. The authors propose to view this situation through the influence that the socioeconomic context of the country and its level of international dependence had on the public policy elaboration and the adoption of governance models. Traditionally, water was considered as a common good, its management was entrusted for a long time to public agencies responsible of overseeing for general interest. However, since 1992, new governance models based on administrative decentralization, decision-making democratization, but also resource privatization, were incited by the economic international organizations.

Key words: water management, decentralization, democratization and water privatization.

The grain marketing subsidies and the *Ejido* members of Guanajuato: A way to retain their identity as grain croppers?

María Cristina Steffen Riedemann

This essay discusses the major grain marketing support programs driven by the Mexican Government in recent years, characterized by decreasing sphere of influence, its exclusive orientation to commercial farming regions, its concentration among a diminishing number of

producers and its lack of continuity. The main objective is to study the effects of these programs among small *ejido* producers which produce corn, wheat and sorghum for the market. And, on the other hand, to think about the possibility that, due to the existence of these programs that are part of government policies recommended by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the *Ejido* members may achieve greater competitiveness and could integrate more favorably to multilateral trade, which would encourage the preservation of their identity as grain croppers and their social reproduction. However, the study of these peasants who cultivate land with good productive potential, demonstrates the enormous limitations of the said programs to achieve these goals.

Key words: grains, *ejido* members, OECD, marketing.