

The First Annual International Conference on Minor Parties, Independent Politicians, Voter Associations and Political Associations in Politics

'Politics beyond the mainstream'

The University of Birmingham, 29, 30 November and 1 December 2007

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2007

10.00 – 10.45	Session 1: Introduction and Welcome: Colin Copus, Alistair Clark, Kristof Steyvers, Herwig Reynaert
10.45 – 12.00	Session 2: Independent Local Lists: Chair Kristof Steyvers: Discussant: Nicolas Bué Everhard Holtmann, University of Halle: Bridging the gap between politics and “nonpolitics”? –Some general remarks on the opportunity structures of independent local lists Gabor Soos, Tocqueville Research Centre: Local and national Parties in Hungary Jerzy Bartkowski, University of Warsaw: Politization and Personalization in Local Elections in Poland. Independents in Local Elections in Poland 1990-2006.
12.00 - 13.00	LUNCH
13.00 - 14.15	Session 3: Independents and small parties in the UK: Chair: Colin Copus: Discussant: Amir Abedi Hugh Bochel, Lincoln: Minor parties and independents in times of change: Scottish local elections 1974 to 2007 Russell Deacon, UWIC: Third parties in a four party state: The small parties and the Welsh Assembly elections 2007 Chris Game, University of Birmingham: Unpacking the ubiquitous 10 per cent: Some facts and figures concerning minor party and independent local politics in Great Britain
14.15 – 14.30	Tea Break
14.30 – 15.45	Session 4: Chair: Kristof Steyvers: Discussant: Gabor Soos Sean Hanley, UCL: Pensioners' parties in Central and Eastern Europe Chris Carman, University of Strathclyde, Murray Leith, University of Paisley: Alternative Paths to the Agenda: Political organisation involvement in the Scottish petitions process Steven Fielding, University of Nottingham: Cinematic representations of politics during the 'golden age' of party, 1944-64
15.45 – 16.00	Tea Break
16.00 – 17.15	Session 5: Coalitions and parties: Chair: Herwig Reynaert: Discussant: Sarah Birch Daniele Albertazzi, University of Birmingham, Duncan McDonnell University of Torino, James Newell University of Salford: Small, radical and indispensable: the propaganda of the Lega Nord and Rifondazione Comunista in government Jennifer Curtin and Raymond Miller, University of Auckland: Counting the Costs of Coalition: The Case of New Zealand's Small Parties Anne Sutter, Aix-Marseille University: Minor parties and electoral law: building a new party project in Mexico, a case study

FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2007

9.15 – 10.15	Key Note address: Tony Wright MP: Opening up political space for new contenders
10.15 – 10.30	Tea break
10.30 – 12.00	<p>Session 6: Independents and parties in Irish (and Polish) politics: Chair: Alistair Clark: Discussant: Marco Lisi</p> <p>Liam Weeks, University College Cork: Explaining the significance of Independents in Irish political life</p> <p>Aaron Edwards, Queen’s University Belfast: Preparing for Peace: The Political Significance of the Progressive Unionist Party of Northern Ireland, 1977-2007</p> <p>Kacper Rekawek, Queens University, Belfast: Parties of Protest - Bound to Fail? Comparative Analysis of Three Case Studies from Ireland and Poland</p>
12.00 - 13.00	LUNCH
13.00 – 14.30	<p>Session 7: Parliamentary politics for the Independent and small party: Chair: Alistair Clark: Discussant: Daniele Albertazzi (for Russell, Gauja, Hornig); Discussant: Jerzy Bartkowski (for Costar, Cowley & Stuart).</p> <p>Meg Russell, Maria Sciara, Constitution Unit,UCL: Independents Holding the Parliamentary Balance: The ‘Crossbenchers’ in the House of Lords</p> <p>Eike-Christian Hornig, University of Osnabrück, Germany: The Neglected view of Italy’s Fragmented Party System: The Emergence of Minor Parties inside Parliament as Modern Cadre Parties</p> <p>Brian Costar, Swinburne University, Australia, Jennifer Curtin, University of Auckland: The Independent Challenge to Big Party Dominance in Australia.</p> <p>Phillip Cowley, Mark Stuart, Nottingham University: The Mavericks? The Voting Behaviour of Independent MPs, 1997-2007</p>
14.30 - 14.45	Break
14.45 – 16.15	<p>Session 8 : Alternative politics? Chair: Colin Copus: Discussant : Jennifer Curtin</p> <p>Sarah Birch, Essex University : Real Progress: Explaining the Increase in Green Party Support in England and Wales, 1997-2005</p> <p>Nicolas Bué (CERAPS) - University Lille: Hamlet’s existential dilemma: small dimension, partisan identity and strategic choice</p> <p>Hilde Coffe, Utrecht University, The Dutch Christenunie: Organisational Adaptation towards Governmental Participation</p> <p>Anika Gauja, University of Cambridge: Keeping the Bastards Honest: The Political Legacy of the Australian Democrats.</p>
16.15 – 16.30	Tea Break
16.30 – 17.45	<p>Session 9: Local parties in local politics: Chair: Colin Copus: Discussant: Liam Weeks</p> <p>Kristof Steyvers, Herwig Reynaert, Koenraad De Ceuninck, and Tony Valcke, All politics is local, partisan or national? Local lists in Belgium.</p> <p>Jørgen Elklit (University of Aarhus), Ulrik Kjær (University of Southern Denmark), Trends in the Danish Local Party System Format 1966-2005</p> <p>Gissur Ó Erlingsson, Explaining Party Formation in Swedish Local Politics</p>
20.00	CONFERENCE DINNER

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER

10.00 – 11.15	Session 10: The far right in the UK: Chair: Herwig Reynaert: Discussant: Colin Copus Mark Gill, Head of Political Research, Ipsos, Mori: The BNP in East London: a case study of public support Amir Abedi, Western Washington University., Thomas Lundberg, Keele university: Doomed to Failure? UKIP and the Organisational Challenges Facing Right-Wing Populist Anti-Political Establishment Parties James Rhodes, University of Manchester: The Political Breakthrough of the British National Party (BNP) in Burnley
11.15 – 11.30	Tea break
11.30 – 13.00	Session 11: An Iberian perspective: Chair: Kristof Steyvers: Discussant: Hilde Coffe (for Lisi & Alvarez); Discussant Anika Gauja (for Fuentes & Izquierdo) Marco Lisi, University of Florence: Minor parties in Portugal: the evolution and success of the Left Bloc José Manuel Rodríguez-Alvarez, Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM): The minor parties and voter associations at the local elections in Spain Guadalupe Martínez-Fuentes, University of Granada: <i>Izquierda Unida</i> casuistry in the Spanish scene: Single minor party survival dependent on the two major parties competitiveness Jean-Marie Izquierdo, SPIRT, Sciences Po Bordeaux: We always need someone smaller than us: Basque Minor Parties structuring the Basque local political lives
13.00 – 13.15	Final session and Conference Ends

Please Note: Paper presenters have 15 minutes; discussants have 10 minutes to respond to all papers in their session. Session chairs will keep strictly to these times.