Introduction
Edward C. Page and Vincent Wright

in Bureaucratic Elites in Western European States: A Comparative Analysis of Top Officials

Published in print: 1999 Published Online: November 2003
Item type: chapter

It is argued that existing theories and accounts of change in state bureaucracies — which centre mainly on bureaucracy and changing role perceptions — are of little help in understanding how the civil service has developed in modern political systems, and substantially neglect the implications of social and political change for the position of top officials. The aim of this book is to redress this neglect and focus directly on the changing position of senior civil servants in the modern state, and provide evidence on which to base an assessment of the changing political status of senior civil servants in Europe. This introduction starts the process by looking at what might be expected to change vis-à-vis the political status of senior officials and why, provides a basis for the 11 chapters that follow and presents a picture of substantial diversity.

EU committee governance
Jarle Trondal

in An Emergent European Executive Order

Published in print: 2010 Published Online: May 2010
Item type: chapter

Chapter 9 explores the role of EU committees in the emergent European Executive Order. EU committees are important laboratories for studying transformational change that transcends the territorial dynamics of Westphalia because they have institutionalized the bringing together of domestic and Community officials. This chapter explores the following EU committees: The Commission Expert Committees (ECs) that prepare
decisions for the Commission, the Council Working Parties (CWPs) that prepare decisions for the Council of Ministers, and the so-called Comitology Committees (CCs) that assist the Council in controlling delegated powers to the Commission. Comparative survey data reveals that the intergovernmental dynamic is weaker within the ECs than within the CWPs and CCs. Hence, the picture of one unified EU committee system has to be sacrificed for the model of a compound committee system balancing multiple behavioural dynamics. The data seriously challenges sweeping generalizations of administrative fusion and bureaucratic engrenage. This chapter also demonstrates that deliberative dynamics are not omnipotent within the CCs as asserted by Joerges and Neyer (1997).

Measuring Discrimination
Devah Pager

in Discrimination in an Unequal World
Published in print: 2010 Published Online: September 2010
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199732166.003.0003
Item type: chapter

This chapter talks about the dominant methods that have been used to study discrimination in the United States, including studies of perceptions, attitude surveys, statistical analyses, laboratory experiments, and field experiments. Despite its various complexities, field experiments remain the most effective approach to measuring discrimination in real-world settings. By interacting with real employers, and by simulating the process of actual job applicants or intermediaries, we can get as close as possible to the interactions that produce discrimination in contemporary labor markets. While no research method is without flaws, careful consideration of the range of methods available helps to match one's research question with the appropriate empirical strategy. Although the field experiment cannot address all relevant aspects of labor market disadvantage, it can provide strong and direct measures of discrimination at the point of hire, a powerful mechanism regulating the employment opportunity.

Conclusion
Amanda Bittner

in Platform or Personality?: The Role of Party Leaders in Elections
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: May 2011
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199595365.003.0008
This chapter provides the conclusion to the book. It returns to the normative concerns raised in the introduction, and argues that in a healthy and well-functioning democracy, voters' perceptions of leaders' characteristics ought to matter. Summing up the main findings of the book, including the importance of the partisan stereotype in influencing voters' perceptions of leaders' traits and the impact of leaders on both the individual vote calculus as well as the distribution of votes in an election, the chapter reiterates the important role of party leaders. The fact that voters' perceptions of leaders' character and competence have a consistent influence even among the most sophisticated segments of society suggests that evaluations of leaders are not simply a short-cut or tool to aid the least informed, but may provide all voters with important information that ought to be integrated into vote choice. Voters consider leaders' traits, and in a healthy democracy, so they should.

The other side of European identity: elite perceptions of threats to a cohesive Europe
Irmina Matonytė and Vaidas Morkevičius

in The Europe of Elites: A Study into the Europeanness of Europe's Political and Economic Elites

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: May 2012

This chapter investigates elites’ perceptions of potential external and internal threats to a cohesive Europe (enlargement of the EU to include Turkey, close relationships between some EU countries and the United States, interference of Russia in European affairs, increase in nationalism, immigration from non-EU states, negative effects of globalization on welfare, and economic and social differences among the EU member states). Results show nationalism and socio-economic differences to be perceived as the highest threats. Significant differences are found between perceptions of elites from EU founding member states and the new post-socialist EU member states; the perception of threats is not systematically stronger among political elites than among economic elites, although elites’ left–right political identification is a powerful predictor. Threat perception is also related to elites’ visions of Europe and articulated along three lines: cultural heritage, socio-economic order, and governance. Elites’ trust in the EU institutions decreases their perception of threats.
The Flow of Political Information: Personal Discussants, the Media, and Partisans
Bradley Richardson and Paul Allen Beck

in Democracy, Intermediation, and Voting on Four Continents

Published in print: 2007 Published Online: October 2011
Item type: chapter

This chapter analyzes the political messages received by voters from personal discussants and the mass media, in long-established democracies as well as new democracies, in twelve different countries. It starts by addressing citizen exposure to political information from spouses, other personal discusssants, newspapers, and television. It takes into account voter perceptions of the partisanship of the political messages they receive from each intermediary or the partisan bias of the information. It also examines how the voters' partisanship is related to the information they seek and receive. The chapter concludes that replication of the analysis on other election surveys should be done in the next stage of CNEP.

Nationalizing Sex
Richard Togman

Published in print: 2019 Published Online: May 2019
Item type: book

Over the past three hundred years there have been countless attempts by governments of all types to control fertility and reproduction. Currently, more than 170 countries representing over 85 percent of humanity are actively trying to engineer how many children a person will have. Democratic, authoritarian, religious, secular, Western, Eastern, and African states have all tried with little success to control individual fertility decisions. This presents a series of interesting puzzles. Why do governments want to control childbearing decisions? What are they trying to achieve? Moreover, almost all attempts to control fertility have failed. Policies rarely, if ever, achieve government objectives. Accordingly, why do policies so routinely fail? Why do governments of all shapes and sizes continue to create policies that have a robust record of failure? What accounts for such unusual cross-national trends in government attempts to instill a sexual duty to the state? This book fills the gap by analyzing the origins, growth, and development of fertility as a national and international political issue; the rise and fall
of the discourses used to ascribe meaning to natality; and the global proliferation of isomorphic policies adopted by widely dissimilar states. It proposes an explanation for the widespread failure of hundreds of years of policy.

The Politics of Nuclear Energy in Western Europe
Wolfgang C. Müller and Paul W. Thurner (eds)
Published in print: 2017 Published Online: May 2017
Item type: book

This volume investigates nuclear energy policies in Western Europe over the entire post-war period, giving special attention to the two most recent decades. It focuses on the interplay between voters’ attitudes, anti-nuclear movements, party competition, and coalition formation. Based on a mixed-methods approach using structured case studies, qualitative comparison, and quantitative analyses, it shows that the nature of party competition under given institutional contexts is a key driver for policy change. Part I introduces the practical and theoretical relevance of the topic. It outlines the reasoning of the major scientific contribution with regard to nuclear energy policies, and offers a theoretical alternative to the previous literature that has been predominantly movements-oriented. It also formulates a set of specific hypotheses on policy change and stability. Additionally, it provides core economic and political indicators of the changing role of nuclear energy in the countries. Part II consists of seven in-depth country case studies applying the outlined analytical perspective. Part III consists of an evaluation of the hypotheses, qualitative comparison of sixteen Western European cases (drawing, in addition to the country case studies on short narratives of the remaining countries) and of a quantitative assessment of the multivariate impact of factors for policy change.

A Social Constructivist Theory of Economic Inequality and Trust
Christian Albrekt Larsen
in The Rise and Fall of Social Cohesion: The Construction and De-construction of Social Trust in the US, UK, Sweden and Denmark
Published in print: 2013 Published Online: September 2013
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199681846.003.0004
Item type: chapter

The chapter establishes a theoretical framework which allows us to explain change in trust levels. It is an alternative to the theories which
claim that our assessment of the trustworthiness of fellow citizens is deeply embedded in cultural norms that are stable throughout generations or created by experiences from face-to-face interactions. Thus it is an alternative to Putnam’s theory about the American decline being caused by less experience of face-to-face interaction between citizens. More concretely, Chapter 4 theorizes the relationship between economic inequality, perceptions of living in a middle-class society and trust, and illustrates the points by using cross-national data.

Perceptions of Middle-Class Society and Social Trust: A Micro-Perspective
Christian Albrekt Larsen

in The Rise and Fall of Social Cohesion: The Construction and De-construction of Social Trust in the US, UK, Sweden and Denmark

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: September 2013	Publisher: Oxford University Press
Item type: chapter

In this chapter it is that generations who think they live in a middle-class society are more inclined to trust other citizens than are generation who think ‘most people’ are located at ‘the bottom’ of society. Perceptions of living in middle class society actually explain most of the well-known generational effect and part of the well-known educational effect. These findings document that decreased trust in the US and UK is closely linked to the perception that most people are at the ‘bottom’, and increased trust in Sweden and Denmark is closely linked to the perception that most people are in the ‘middle’. The chapter also measures the impact from other central perceptions; e.g. the degree to which society delivers equal opportunity.

Increased Ethnic Diversity: A Threat to Social Cohesion
Christian Albrekt Larsen

in The Rise and Fall of Social Cohesion: The Construction and De-construction of Social Trust in the US, UK, Sweden and Denmark

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: September 2013	Publisher: Oxford University Press
Item type: chapter

The chapter argues that in the US case, there are good reasons to believe that increased ethnic diversity will help to stabilise the current low-trust environment. More controversially, the chapter also argues that
the same seems to be the case for the UK, Sweden, and Denmark. It is documented that ‘non-western immigrants’ are perceived as negatively as blacks are in the US. It is also documented that at the micro-level negative perceptions about non-western-immigrants in the UK, Sweden, and Denmark are as strongly linked to trust and resistance to anti-poverty policy as are the links between perceptions about blacks and trust and public resistance to anti-poverty policy in the US. Thus, the most likely result is that increased ethnic diversity challenges social cohesion.

Introduction
Thierry Balzacq, Peter Dombrowski, and Simon Reich

in Comparative Grand Strategy: A Framework and Cases

This chapter lays out the objectives of the volume, provides a new conceptual and methodological framework, and justifies case selection. It comprises three sections. The first section argues that a comparative approach to the study of grand strategy both highlights the constraints of contemporary single-country research and the opportunities presented by a systematic research design. The chapter’s second section evaluates the alternative definitions and competing theoretical traditions developed to study grand strategy. The authors argue in favor of an integration of these traditions within a single framework, coupled with an expanded universe of countries as viable cases. In the third section, the authors examine which systemic and domestic factors organically influence the ways in which states formulate and implement grand strategies. The chapter identifies criteria for better explanations about why individual states make specific choices, and provides threads that ensure the internal consistency of the book.

Russia
Céline Marangé

in Comparative Grand Strategy: A Framework and Cases
This chapter argues that Russia’s current leadership has consistently promoted a grand strategy that is fundamentally defensive in nature and offensive in practice. It has prioritized security and the quest for recognition in assuming that Russia’s status has been purposely diminished, and that the strategic environment poses a tangible threat to both Russian national interests and the regime’s survival. The institutional setting and strategic culture play a crucial role in the formulation of a strategic security agenda. Although defensive in character and reactive in nature, Russian strategies have embraced bold, proactive, and transformational agendas that have extended beyond military activity. New ways and means have been developed to heighten Russia’s security, assert regional dominance, and attain global recognition. Russia’s leadership not only resorts to military interventions and hybrid warfare and to strategic deterrence and intimidation, but also to comprehensive influence and political destabilization, while using military rhetoric and victories to conceal its domestic shortcomings.

EMB Performance and Perceptions of Electoral Integrity in Africa
Nicholas N. Kerr

in Advancing Electoral Integrity
Published in print: 2014 Published Online: June 2014
Publisher: Oxford University Press
Item type: chapter

This chapter analyzes the factors that influence citizens' perceptions of electoral integrity in terms of the performance of EMBs, the characteristics of the election environment, and citizens' individual attributes. The chapter evaluates these competing explanations using a multi-level analysis across eighteen African countries from 1999 to 2008. The chapter concludes that EMB performance strengthens Africans' evaluations of integrity, while electoral violence significantly lowers these perceptions. Moreover, perceptions of integrity are consistently lower among electoral losers as well as those who are more educated.

Methods and Evidence
Pippa Norris, Jørgen Elklit, and Andrew Reynolds

in Advancing Electoral Integrity
Published in print: 2014 Published Online: June 2014
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199368709.003.0003
This chapter seek to clarify the underlying concepts of electoral integrity and malpractice, and to consider what systematic, valid, and reliable evidence is available to allow scholars and practitioners to monitor the quality of elections. The chapter reviews the pros and cons of several methods and analytical techniques. Previous studies have usually relied upon one or several primary sources, including case studies, performance indices, and elite interviews, content analysis of observer mission reports, human rights reports, coding of news media coverage, forensic analysis of election results, randomized evaluations through natural or field experiments, and also public opinion surveys. It is argued that many of these approaches are useful, but they each suffer from important limitations, for example in terms of conceptual validity, cross-national coverage, and/or capacity to monitor all sequential stages throughout the electoral cycle. It is therefore useful to supplement this evidence through gathering evidence from a global survey of expert opinion. The new Perception of Electoral Integrity Index (PEI), it is suggested, offers a comprehensive, systematic, and robust measure that can usefully supplement many other sources of empirical evidence, playing a valuable role for both the academic and the policymaking communities.

Introduction
Lauren M. McLaren

in Immigration and Perceptions of National Political Systems in Europe

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: October 2015
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198739463.003.0001
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the main questions motivating the book, outlines the book’s argument, and explains the geographical scope of the argument. The chapter also discusses the key concepts used in the book: national identity, immigration, and perceptions of national political systems. Since the book is ultimately about perceptions of national political systems, the chapter provides a brief overview of explanations for the variation in perceptions of political systems provided in academic literature on the topic and discusses potential factors that may be causing a spurious relationship between concern about immigration and negative perceptions of political systems—factors which need to be taken into account in analyses conducted later in the book.
Conclusion
Lauren M. McLaren

in Immigration and Perceptions of National Political Systems in Europe

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: October 2015
Item type: chapter

This chapter is the concluding chapter of the book and provides a summary of the book’s main argument, findings, and conclusions. The chapter highlights the importance of the creation of national identity for the way we view newcomers (or immigrants) and it looks into the implications of these views for how we view our political systems in the modern age of large-scale immigration. The chapter also discusses the implications of the findings for social science research and for policymaking. The chapter ends by providing suggestions for future avenues of research in the area of immigration and attitudes to national governments.

Dissecting the Causal Chain from Quality of Government to Political Support
Tom van der Meer

in Myth and Reality of the Legitimacy Crisis: Explaining Trends and Cross-National Differences in Established Democracies

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: August 2017
Item type: chapter

This chapter investigates to what extent cross-national differences in political support can be explained by the quality of government. The quality of government perspective implies that the executive ought to be bound by its own rules: impartiality and rule of law. The chapter formulates and tests hypotheses about the effects of governmental impartiality, rule of law, bureaucratic professionalism, and corruption on citizens’ political support using data from the ESS 2012. Of these indicators, it is the impartiality of policy implementation by the national bureaucracy that stands out as a consistently significant, robust, and strong predictor of political support.
Recent years have seen a sharp acceleration in the publication of empirical studies on conspiracy beliefs. Collectively this work demonstrates markers of an energized but exploratory field still seeking theoretical focus and depth. The research has arrived at an inflection point that will lead to increased expectations for theory-driven work that tests specific predictions and arrives at answers with the potential to improve public discourse about conspiracy theories. Three specific lines of research can advance our understanding of the place of conspiracy beliefs in adaptive cognition: clearly defining the phenomenon under investigation, exploring the situational factors that contribute to conspiracy beliefs, and testing the positive as well as negative outcomes that result from conspiracy beliefs.

Chapter 1 begins by laying out the fundamental question of the book: What accounts for the ongoing choices of world leaders at multiple levels of governance to spend vast sums of money and manpower to instill a sexual duty to the state and policies designed to manipulate fertility that have a relatively robust record of failure? It explains government motivation as rooted in a narrative crafted to give meaning to fertility and in the discursive linkages drawn between fertility and the major threats a country perceives itself to face that determine government action. Moreover, this chapter outlines an explanation of why natalist policy typically fails. This book argues that the dissonance between macro understandings of fertility at the state level and micro understandings of fertility as practiced by individuals lies at the heart of the failure of policy.