

Harrison Prize Virtual Issue

Each year the Political Studies Association awards a prize for the best paper published in *Political Studies*, named the Harrison Prize in honour of Wilfrid Harrison, who was Chair of the Association from 1963 – 1964 and the first editor of *Political Studies*.

This virtual issue of the journal brings together all the papers in *Political Studies* which have been awarded the Harrison Prize since 2006.

Results and Citations for the Harrison Prize Winners 2006-2013

HP Winner 2013

Martin Bækgaard and Carsten Jensen
The Dynamics of Competitor Party Behaviour
Political Studies 60 (1) March 2012, pp. 131-146

Judges

Professor David Owen (Chair), University of Southampton
Professor Francesca Gains, University of Manchester
Dr Eva Anduiza Perea, Autonomous University of Barcelona
Dr Ricardo Fabrino Mendonça, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Citation

This is an excellent piece of research, with a relevant research question and compelling empirical material, a significant contribution to the literature on party behaviour.

The article identifies a lacuna in the literature on party divergence regarding how electoral defeats affect opposition parties' behaviour along time and presents a theory concerning how parties that lose the elections behave across time. The theory predicts that after initial defeats losers will move away from winners to mobilize their base and maximize both its policy and office-seeking preferences. If the party keeps losing then a radical change in strategy will occur, shifting towards the policy position of the incumbent party (that is assumed to be the one that people prefer as they keep on voting for it). Doing this reduces the importance of policy concerns for voting (since both parties converge, the relative advantage of the incumbent disappears) and increases other factors' such as performance evaluations or leaders' personalities. The loser then sacrifices policy on behalf of office. The theory enable us to understand cases where there is no power rotation but a single party or coalition keeps winning elections and to explain under what conditions and why parties change their strategies.

The theory is illustrated with qualitative material (a brief description of the new democrats in the US and the new labour in the UK) and then tested against quantitative evidence (data on 214 municipalities, in some of which the same party has ruled for nine elections or more). Data on policy positions are obtained through a survey to 1,787 councillors (67% response rate). Though these data are not in themselves longitudinal, they can be related with the main explanatory variable (number of times incumbent party has held the position as mayor, measuring how many times the competitor party ambitions' have been frustrated). It is a smart way to deal with a dynamic analysis without having longitudinal data on policy positions (that are impossible to obtain). The analysis includes municipalities where Social Democrats and Liberals were competing, excluding those where there were other ruling parties. At the same time authors make an effort to assess the applicability of their results to two-party systems (Other controls are fiscal strain, municipality size, culture of consensus, mass media importance, and competitor party difference in seats from previous election.)

Results are consistent with the expectations and show that something changes dramatically when a party loses for the second or third time in a row. A simple figure shows the dynamic pattern of divergence and convergence.

HP Winner 2012

Ricardo Fabrino Mendonça

Recognition and Social Esteem: A Case Study of the Struggles of People Affected by Leprosy
Political Studies 59 (4), December 2011, pp. 940-958

Judges

Professor Terrell Carver (Chair), University of Bristol

Professor Rosaleen Duffy, University of Manchester

Professor Mona Lena Krook, Washington University in St Louis

Professor David Marsh, Australian National University

Citation

This article is an outstanding contribution to *Political Studies*. It truly crosses traditional areas of research by reorienting a core debate in political theory – the role of recognition in theories of justice. In a sophisticated way it re-orientes theory towards empirical methods.

Focusing on the experiences of a neglected group – patients with leprosy in Brazil – Mendonça convincingly explains why existing frameworks, which focus on the affirmation of group identities, overlook other ways through which individuals struggle for greater esteem. These include contesting stigma, emphasizing contributions to society, and demonstrating personal achievements.

Strikingly original, the analysis opens up many new avenues of enquiry by rethinking the strategies that are deployed in neglected areas of political struggle in order to create societies that are more just.

HP Winner 2011

Mona Lena Krook

Women's Representation in Parliament: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis
Political Studies 58 (5), December 2010, pages 886–908

Judges

Professor Stefan Wolff (Chair), University of Birmingham

Professor Hillel Steiner, University of Manchester

Professor David Beetham, University of Leeds

Professor Paul Mitchell, LSE

Citation

Explaining why there is so much cross-national and cross-regional variation in the representation of women in national parliaments is an important and much debated subject, both among academics and practitioners. This article points to the increasing discrepancies between the findings of case-based qualitative inquiries and large-n statistical studies, and considers whether some of these puzzles can be resolved using a comparative case medium-n approach. Krook's article is an unusually clear and persuasive application of the Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) approach developed by Charles Ragin.

Analytically the article focuses on (1) 'causal combinations' (the idea that the impact of any one 'cause' may depend on the presence or absence of other conditions, and (2) equifinality, the idea that there may be more than one path to the same outcome. The approach is imaginatively applied to separate data sets of 22 'western' established democracies and to 26 Sub-Saharan African countries.

To take just one example of the findings: there has been a lively debate about the importance of a PR electoral system. The analysis demonstrates that PR plays a role in promoting women's access to parliament in the West when it combines with women's activism. By contrast the non-PR majoritarian systems of many African countries have played little decisive role when other factors like gender quotas and post-conflict factors have been present.

In short Krook addresses an important subject with a novel approach that leads to highly suggestive findings. The conclusions have clear implications for policy, practice and future research.

HP Winner 2010

Paul Mitchell, Geoffrey Evans and Brendan O'Leary

Extremist Outbidding in Ethnic Party Systems is Not Inevitable: Tribune Parties in Northern Ireland

Political Studies 57 (2), March 2009, pp. 397-421

Judges

Professor Andrew Hurrell (Chair), University of Oxford

Professor Christopher Wlezien, Temple University

Professor David Miller, University of Oxford

Citation

This article offers fresh theoretical and empirical perspectives on the evolution of party systems in the face of ethnic division. Mitchell, Evans and O'Leary argue that, while ethnic division encourages centrifugal tendencies, in the form of ethnic outbidding, power-sharing institutions can encourage the development of pragmatic electoral strategies, what the authors label 'ethnic tribune' appeals. The authors evaluate the hypothesis focusing on attitudes and voting behaviour in Northern Ireland between 1998 and 2003. They show that, after the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, there was substantial vote switching from moderate to traditionally 'extreme' parties during the period, but that this was accompanied by convergence in the attitudes of the nationalist and unionist communities. That is, voters increasingly supported peace, prosperity and power-sharing but preferred that this be led by advocates of ethnic interests. The results underscore the important roles parties play in the electoral process. Most importantly, they demonstrate how power-sharing incentives can structure party behaviour itself. The research thus has broad implications for our understanding of party systems and efforts to create cooperation from seemingly intractable political conflict.

HP Winner 2009

James Tilley and Christopher Wlezien

Does Political Information Matter? An experimental Test Relating to Party Positions on Europe

Political Studies 56 (1), March 2008

Judges

Professor Gary Marks (Chair), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Professor Michael Laver, New York University

Professor Hugh Ward, University of Essex

Citation

This article conducts a fascinating survey experiment that sheds light on the effect of new information on voters' placements of political parties and on voters' self-placements. Instead of assuming that mass publics have a reasonably accurate fix on the issue positions adopted by political parties, Tilley and Wlezien probe the conditions under which this is true by carefully examining how party divisions, voter sophistication, and information interact to shape voters' perceptions.

HP Winner 2008

Robert Dover

For Queen and Company: the Role of Intelligence in the UK's Arms Trade
Political Studies 55 (4), December 2007

Judges

Professor Andrew Dobson (Chair), Keele University
Professor Carole Pateman, UCLA
Professor Elizabeth Meehan, Queen's University Belfast

Citation

Robert Dover makes an important contribution to our understanding of 'intelligence' and its uses in large commercial transactions. He has something new and substantial to say about British government bodies and informal and formal intelligence in the significant and controversial field of arms sales. He has overcome considerable methodological difficulties to produce research that challenges previous accounts of the intelligence services and reveals the little understood role of embassies, government agencies and departments in facilitating the marketing of the products of commercial arms manufacturers. The uncovering of this elision between government and commercial interests offers an excellent, major insight into the workings of British government.

HP Winner 2007

Andrew Dobson

Thick Cosmopolitanism
Political Studies 54 (1), March 2006

Judges

Professor Helen Margetts (Chair), University of Oxford
Professor Colin McInnes, Aberystwyth University
Professor Gurpreet Mahajan, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Citation

This article makes an important contribution to the debate on cosmopolitanism and questions of political obligation. Crucially it suggests that current accounts of obligation depend on relatively weak assertions of common humanity. Dobson's contribution in suggesting an alternative, much stronger form of political obligation based on material factors is not only imaginative and sophisticated, but offers a compelling solution to the 'motivational vacuum' of cosmopolitan political theory.

HP Winner 2006

Mark Tunick

John Stuart Mill and Unassimilated Subjects
Political Studies 53 (4), December 2005

Judges

Professor Vivien Lowndes (Chair), De Montfort University
Professor Richard Bellamy, UCL
Dr Nicola Phillips, University of Manchester

Citation

To say something new about Mill's harm principle is a scholarly achievement in itself. To do so in a way that clarifies not only Mill's argument but also the contemporary issue of cultural clashes involving unassimilated minorities is particularly impressive. A fruitful combination of political theory and public policy, that reveals how the best academic work can engage with political reality without sacrificing scholarly standards and concerns.