



PhD Thesis Prizes 2015

AFSP / Fondation Mattei Dogan

► French studies

Thomas EHRHARD

Thomas Ehrhard defended his doctoral thesis, in november 2014, at the University Paris II Panthéon-Assas before a jury composed of Xavier Crettiez, Ilvo Diamanti, Michel Hastings, Hugues Portelli, Sylvie Strudel and Jean-Michel De Waele. The thesis, entitled « Le découpage électoral sous la Ve République, entre logiques partisans et intérêts parlementaires » (« Redistricting in the Fifth Republic, between partisan logics and parliamentary interests »), focuses on a subject little studied by political science in France, despite being important object within the international political scientist literature.

The thesis puts forward a study of the legislative redistricting under the Fifth Republic following two axes. The first one, the analysis of the policy process, questions the role and the actions of the government through an analysis of time and formal constraints, before studying the processes, and the political actors and their strategies. The second one relates to the electoral engineering and the consequences of redistricting ("one man, one vote", partisan bias, etc.) according to a multiple scales analysis. The thesis is based on qualitative and quantitative methods and uses multiple sources (international literature, political data, mapping, interviews, parliamentary debates, etc.). It compares the french case with other countries (US, UK, Australia, New Zealand, etc.) and uses electoral studies, legislative studies, theory of electoral reform and institutional studies to understand the redistricting process. Then, it studies the consequences of electoral boundaries delimitation by a cross analysis of the legislative constituencies by the electoral geography and statistics. The empirical study shows that electoral constituencies are made according to deputies (particularly incumbents) interests, before favoring political parties, or the majority making the redistricting. It also appears that redistricting is not decisive, but electoral boundaries may have structural consequences on the electoral competition. Under the Fifth Republic, redistricting can be described as interparliamentary and intrapartisan. The thesis also questions the « classic » cognitive representation of the redistricting (gerrymandering), and the reasons for their absence between 1958 and 1986 and between 1986 and 2010.

Thomas Ehrhard has received the Thesis Prize of the Assemblée nationale 2014 (National Assembly). His current works are in the field of electoral studies. He continues his research on electoral and institutional systems, and their reforms. As a PhD student, Thomas Ehrhard was also teaching and research assistant at the University Paris II Panthéon-Assas. His Thesis is going to be published by the Éditions Classiques Garnier.



► Comparative studies

Camille BEDOCK

Camille Bedock defended in April 2014 a PhD thesis entitled "Reforming Democracy: Institutional Engineering in Western Europe" in the European University Institute of Florence. The thesis was supervised by Peter Mair (*) and then jointly by Sven Steinmo (EUI) and Nicolas Sauger (Sciences Po – CEE/LIEPP). The jury was composed by Sven Steinmo, Nicolas Sauger, Stefano Bartolini and Jean-Benoit Pilet. This thesis deals with a classical issue of political science; namely the politics of institutional engineering. It seeks to explain the occurrence of reforms of the central institutions of West European political systems between 1990 and 2010. To do so, the thesis uses mixed methods, combining statistical analyses and case studies (in France, Ireland, and Italy). The main innovation of the thesis consists in the study of 'bundles of reform' defined as institutional reforms linked with each other and associated with several dimensions of the institutional architecture. The thesis shows, firstly, that democratic reforms, far from being exceptional events, are frequent and tend to make institutions more inclusive. The frequency of these reforms can be explained mainly in the long run by the level of political support, and in the short run by factors related to electoral evolutions (political alternation and rising volatility). Therefore, it puts in perspective the recurring idea according to which the level of institutional constraint is the most important explanation of reform. Finally, the case studies enable to develop a typology showing that the final outcome of a given reform within a bundle depends of the nature of the reform at stake (consensual or conflictual) and of the process of reform chosen (majoritarian, supermajoritarian, or externalised). During her thesis, Camille has been a visiting fellow in the University College Dublin and in the Centre d'Études Européennes of Sciences Po. Since September 2014, she is a temporary lecturer (ATER) in the Institut d'Études Politiques de Bordeaux, and associated researcher in the Centre Emile Durkheim (Sciences Po Bordeaux) and the Laboratoire d'évaluation des politiques publiques (LIEPP) of Sciences Po Paris. She has published in various journals such as the *European Political Science Review*, the *Revue française de science politique*, *Pôle Sud*, *Representation*, or *French Politics*. Her current research interests revolve around the issue of the link between institutional reforms and level of political support, in order to question the foundations of political legitimacy for ordinary citizens, and to understand the recompositions of democracy related with institutional reforms.



► Public policies

Ulrike LEPONT

Ulrike Lepont's political science dissertation is entitled « Shaping policies at the state's margins. The role of experts in American health care reforms (1970-2010) ». It was defended in December 2014 at the University of Montpellier 1, before a jury consisting of William Genieys (supervisor), Henri Bergeron, Lawrence Brown, Patrick Hassenteufel, Gilles Massardier and Marc Smryl.

Considering the conditions of production and dissemination of ideas and knowledge involved in the American policy-making process, this thesis uses the case of health care policies to explore the role of actors often mentioned but so far little studied: the « experts » consulted by US policymakers to formulate reform programs and instruments, and employed by non governmental providers of expertise (think tanks, foundations, academic centers and, rarely, consulting firms). Linking together the sociology of elites, of expertise, of professions and of knowledge, the thesis shows the correlation between the evolution of reform programs - characterized by the convergence around market-based health care systems - and the institutionalization of a space of expertise built up around a professional group that has gradually managed to define and control the diffusion of knowledge and key positions on health protection policies. This process leads to the reduction of policy alternatives available to policymakers. In this way, the thesis highlights the importance of studying the transformations of academics and expertise to understand public policy changes. The finding of a public expertise infrastructure outside the federal administration - described as « para-administration » - also calls for a reconceptualization of the US state to include actors located at the fringes of the central bureaucracy. This approach suggests a new way of discussing the « weakness » of the US state. It also shows that, in this case at least, the externalization of public expertise does not make it more pluralistic, or more independent from the political demands and constraints imposed by policy makers or state institutions.

During her PhD, Ulrike Lepont taught at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Montpellier 1 (as graduate teaching assistant and then lecturer). She took part in a research project on American elites led by William Genieys (ANR OPERA) and made two field surveys in Washington, DC, as a visiting scholar at George Mason University (2010) and APSA Centennial Center (2011). Since September 2014, she is a lecturer in political science at the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines.



► States and Nations in a multipolar world

Sümbül KAYA

Sümbül Kaya defended her political science doctoral dissertation in 2013 at the Pantheon-Sorbonne University, before a jury composed by Gilles Dorronsoro (her supervisor), Marc Bessin, Hamit Bozarslan, Muriel Darmon, Michel Offerlé and Johanna Siméant. Entitled « Military production of the citizen. Political sociology of conscription », this research questions the state mechanisms of socialization, drawing from the case study of conscription in Turkey. It sheds new light on military relations and society, mobilizing the theories of socialization, to show how the experience of military service is designed as a dynamic and multidimensional process.

Her work confirms that the socialization offered by the military institution is most effective when it is congruent with earlier socialization and previous trajectories of the conscripts. While showing the permeability between the civil and military spheres, this thesis tempers the idea of the society's militarization / nationalization. Indeed, military service is analyzed as a secondary socialization, the effects of which are limited and differentiated. More than a definitive socialization of the body into a homogeneous nation, conscription is presented as a moment of reaffirmation and legitimization of the nation into classes. Her work is a contribution to the study of citizenship, to the analysis of the forms of state's violence (legitimate and illegitimate), and to the study of institutions. It thus sheds light on the state's impact by crossing an institutional approach, input « from below » and the socialization process. Her work also reflects the commitment of recruits in armed conflict by questioning the phenomenon of socialization to violence between States. Alongside her research, Sümbül Kaya was lecturer at the Lumière Lyon II University. She also held a research assistant position at EHESS (CETOBAC) as part of the ANR program « Order and Compromise: Government Practices in Turkey from the Late Ottoman Empire to the Early 21st Century ». Since 2014, she is postdoc ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche) « Trans-acting Matters: Areas and Eras of a (Post-)Ottoman Globalization » (CETOBAC / EHESS / Collège de France), Globalization and Governance program, and is currently working on the transfer of norms, throughout the dynamics of the enlargement of the European Union to Turkey.

