

Title: Political Parties in Contemporary Policy Process Frameworks: A Unitary Collective Actor or a Dynamic Organisation?.

Abstract [in English]

This thesis argues that the rise of anti-establishment parties calls for a review of the literature on the policy process and the importance of political parties therein. As a starting point, this thesis aims to find out how six contemporary policy process frameworks (ACF, IADF, MSF, NPF, PET and PFT) present the role of political parties through a comparative small-n study that works with two distinctive conceptualisations of political parties, namely political parties as a unitary collective actor which is argued to be most prevalent in the (American) literature, and the conceptualisation of political parties as dynamic organisations as embodied in Katz & Mair's (1993; 1995) conceptualisation of the 'three party faces' which is considered to be more representative of political parties active on the European continent. The findings demonstrate that the MSF is the only framework that presents parties as dynamic organisations, whereas the analysis on the ACF and the IADF presents too few findings to reach a conclusion. Regardless of the exact findings, this thesis demonstrates that a broader understanding of political parties that takes into account the different party-related actors and elements may increase our understanding of their role in the policy process.

Keywords

Public Policy Frameworks; Political Parties; Three Party Faces; Parliamentary Democracy; Advocacy Coalition Framework, Institutional Analysis and Development Framework, Multiple Streams Framework, Narrative Policy Framework, Policy Feedback Theory, Punctuated Equilibrium theory.