Abstract:

Analytical research of a migrant’s presence in a certain location on election outcomes of populist-nationalist parties is a relatively new phenomena in the field of electoral geography. Media and political interest in migration and refugees has risen rapidly in the last few years and offers a broad opportunity for relevant scientific studies. This thesis stems from existing literature, that have studied such relation and focuses on the case of The Freedom and Direct Democracy – Tomio Okamura Party (SPD) and on the possible influence of the share of migrants on SPD’s electoral support at two different scale levels (municipalities with authorized municipal offices and individual municipalities) during the 2017 parliamentary elections. Analysing the most important groups of migrants and additionally a formed group of migrants coming from countries with either dominant or significant Muslim native population can be considered as innovative. The main goal is to discover whether the election outcomes of SPD, which stands strongly opposed to migration, differ based on the share of migrants in a certain area, or if migration does not play any role at all. Furthermore, the electoral geography of SPD is compared to the of Tomio Okamura’s former party – Dawn of Direct Democracy, whose rhetoric did not focus on migration during the previous election’s campaign. Based on the results of spatial autocorrelation, linear regression and geographically weighted regression, this study finds that there is no significant relation between migration and the electoral support of SPD on either analysed scale level, though it is rather the influence of selected socioeconomic and demographic attributes that predict such voter’s choice. A shift in geography of election of SPD is also identified. This change is, to a certain level, linked to the transformation of SPD’s rhetoric, incline towards nationalist discourse and a clearly distinct antiimmigration stance.