

Abstract

Regional parties are among the younger topics of political science research, their issue is not addressed by too many authors, and therefore we do not find many works that would contribute to this not very researched area. One of the authors, who included regional parties in her research, is Bonnie Meguid. She introduced the concept of niche parties, dealing with the success of "parties of gaps" compared to mainstream parties. In this work, the concept of niche parties is applied to Spanish regional parties to determine whether the concept is suitable for regional parties and whether we can speak of Spanish regional parties as niche parties. The analysis of the concept will be performed based on five established criteria, based on the work of Meguid and Wagner, who followed up on her concept and expanded it. Eight regional parties from six Spanish regions, selected based on several conditions, will be examined. The source basis of this work are party documents of selected regional parties, especially their election programs.