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Reflexe skupinových zájmů v procesu politického rozhodování: institucionální přístup

Disertační práce

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Annotation

PhD thesis „Reflection of group interests in political decision-making processes: an institutional approach” deals with the role of group interests reflected into the specific decision-making actions, on various stages of the political discourse. The thesis offers a methodological contribution, consisting in an interconnecting of the analysis of interest groups with a new institutional paradigm, utilizing its fundamental concepts, particularly transaction costs, formal and informal institutions, and various types of institutional setting, its equilibrium and change. Among the problems of pluralist democracy there are underlined the processes of cleavage and cohesion, shaping group diversity under the condition of multi-actor democracy. The characteristic of political decision-making involves beyond general framework also problems of group decisionmaking. Two alternative approaches to the policy-making analysis are explored: first, an arena approach, focused on the relations among actors, arenas, and agendas; second, an approach focused on the different networks of policy-making. There is the phenomenon of lobbying analyzed in detail, including the controversial perception of its legitimacy, the forms, methods and effects of lobbying, the cases of lobbying in practice, and a brief picture of lobbying in the Czech media. In conclusion, it is underlined the contribution of institutional perspective, enhancing the capacity to manage a postmodern challenge connected with a risk of fragmentation.